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London Bird Report

1998

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London Natural History Society

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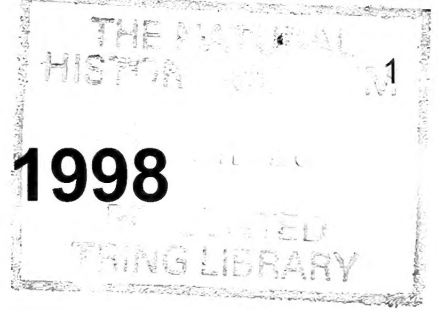
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London Bird Report for 1998

edited by A.S.M. Self

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Front Cover: Shags at Nazeing GP, December 1998 (Dominic Mitchell)

Line Drawings: p173 Great Grey Shrike (Jon Ridge). p14 Bearded Tits; p15 Pied-billed Grebe; p16 Black-necked Grebes; p17 Osprey; p19 Richard's Pipit; p20 & p56 Smew; p21 Kingfisher & ducks; p25 Pintail; p29 Great Crested Grebe; p36 Mute Swans; p58 Ruddy Ducks; p65 Hobbies; p73 Little Ringed Plovers; p76 Lapwing & Golden Plover; p87 Greenshank; p99 Yellow-legged & other Gulls; p108 Stock Dove; p117 Little Owl; p133 Yellow Wagtails; p141 Black Redstart; p156 Dartford Warbler; p183 Goldfinches (Jan Wilczur).

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Introduction

Welcome, finally, to the London Bird Report for 1998. Having this report printed in the spring of 2001 is not a happy state of affairs and everyone connected with its production in the London Natural History Society would like to apologise for its lateness. There have been various reasons for the delay, most notably, the original systematic list editor landing a job with the RSPB that took him out of London and which prevented him from finishing the list. The subsequent delays have been because of a lack of volunteers to help out - the LBR doesn't write itself and a considerable amount of time is required to get the many records submitted written into species accounts then edited into the finished product. Thankfully there is a large pool of people who have written the various species accounts (all mentioned above) and I gratefully acknowledge their assistance. This year you may have noted that we also have a Papers Editor and I owe thanks to Patricia Brown for saving me a lot of work by taking this role on. Even after all this assistance, there is still an enormous amount of work required to pull it all together into a readable and accurate report. I took over as editor for this report just before Christmas 2000 and by the time I finished it, the first summer migrants of 2001 are already back!

This report has had a bit of face lift in an attempt to give it a fresher feel, I hope it meets with your approval. Another change is the taxonomy and nomenclature used in the systematic list. This is always a subject that causes much debate in birding circles and the result rarely ends in agreement. We have largely gone for the popularist views and while all the new 'splits' announced by the BOU have been adopted here, we also list both Yellow-legged Gull and Caspian Gull as separate species, neither of which are recognised by the BOU. Our policy on this is that we want to encourage people to seek out these birds and record them, regardless of their status as a race or full species. However, both are widely recognised in many other countries as separate species and it seems logical to follow this lead. It was necessary to use a more update list for species' names as the previous one dated back to 1984 and was simply out of date. Although the new BOU's 'Official list of birds of Great Britain' was renewed last year, it lists many names that have not found favour with the great birdwatching public so we are now following the *Birdwatch* 'Checklist of the Birds

of the Western Palearctic' that was published in 2000.

Having said all that, the basic formula of this LBR will still be familiar to past readers and aside from the systematic list, there is Gary Elton's Ringing Report, an update on The Breeding Bird Survey in London by Derek Coleman, a paper on Crossbills in the London Area by Peter Oliver and an account of how Steve Connor's attempt to break the London Yearlisting record went. I hope there is something here for all and I hope you enjoy reading this LBR as much as I have enjoyed editing it.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Records Committee, it is my pleasure to thank all of the 450 or so observers who contributed records for this issue of the London Bird Report.

Thanks are due to the artist - Jan Wilczur - for providing illustrations of such a high standard. Mike McDonnell has come up with another excellent selection of photographs for this year's report; other photographs have been kindly provided by Gary Elton, John Flynn, Andrew Middleton, Dominic Mitchell and John Simpson, our thanks go to Mike for organising the photographs this year.

Thanks are due to all those involved in the editing of this report: Ruth Day, Aiden Lonergan and Patricia Brown.

I am particularly grateful to all the Recorders, for the time-consuming task of checking through the species accounts in the systematic list and for providing invaluable comments and corrections at the draft stage as well as their responses to my requests for information; to Thames Water for the many courtesies extended to members; and to the following organisations for their generous help in the exchange of records:

Birdline South East
British Birds Rarities Committee
Buckinghamshire Bird Club
Essex Birdwatching Society
Hertfordshire Natural History Society
Kent Ornithological Society
Surrey Bird Club

Records Committee

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-
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- Photographic Editor:** Mike McDonnell, 185 London Road, Stone, Dartford, Kent
DA2 6BH.
- Papers Editor:** Patricia Brown, 28 The Plantation, Morden Road, London
SE3 0AB

Recording Arrangements

The area covered by this Report, conventionally known as 'the London Area', is the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral. The Area covers the whole of Greater London and parts of Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. However, for continuity of recording, Watsonian vice-counties are used in this Report instead of the present administrative areas (but note that vice-counties 18 and 19, South and North Essex, are lumped together as Essex). The vice-county boundaries are shown on the map of the Area which follows. There is also a special recording zone for Inner London. This is a rectangular area, five miles north to south, eight miles east to west, centred on the site of the old Charing Cross on the south side of Trafalgar Square, which covers parts of Middx, Surrey and, just, Kent. **A detailed Map of the Area together with a Gazetteer of Sites appears on pages 7 to 14.**

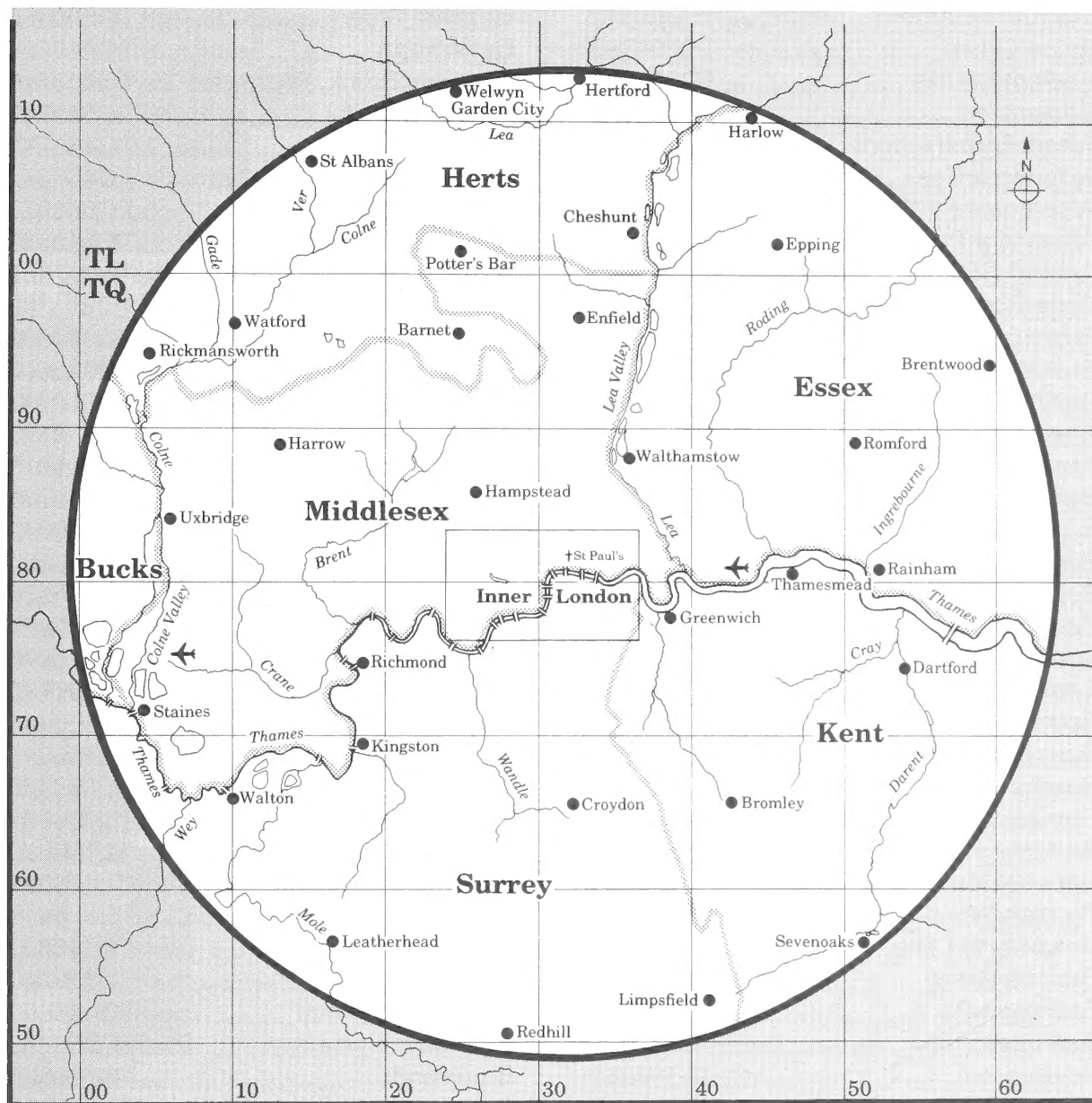
The names used in this Report for certain sites are not shown on, or differ from those on, Ordnance Survey maps. Please consult the Gazetteer of Sites if in any doubt. It would be helpful if these names could be used by observers when submitting records. A National Ordnance Survey Grid Reference should be given in any difficult or doubtful case.

All records of interest are welcome, from LNHS members and non-members alike. These include information on the local status of common species, breeding records, notes on migration (including first and last dates and main movements), regular counts of wintering populations and notes on behaviour and on the occurrence of unusual birds. Many of the passerines, in particular, are under-recorded. Regular reports from the same localities are invaluable in assessing population trends; such reports, along with comments on changes in status, are always very welcome. **A guide for contributors of records is published in this report on pages 240 to 243.** Records should be sent to the appropriate recorder listed on page 5 or, if in doubt, to the *LBR* Editor.

It will greatly assist the speedy entering of records if the Society's recording sheets are used. These are available from any of the Recorders or the Editor on request. Species should be listed in Voous sequence as used in this Report. Separate sheets should be used for each recording area. Completed recording sheets for the period January to July should be submitted in August and for the period August to December in early January of the following year.

Records of nationally rare species should be submitted via the local Recorder to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee as soon as possible after the sighting. Breeding records of rare species should be sent via the local Recorder to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Where requested, records will of course be treated in strict confidence.

Records of other rare and unusual species in the London Area are examined by the LNHS Records Committee before inclusion in the *London Bird Report*. Therefore, please complete and submit a LNHS *Unusual Species Description Form* (available from the Recorders or the Editor) or a brief description/copy of your field notes for these species. Please submit these as soon as possible after the sighting. **Species for which a full description or brief description/field notes are required are evident from the 'guide to contributors' at the back of this report.**



Gazetteer of Sites

The following gazetteer is not intended to include every single site mentioned in the *LBR* and omits obvious place names of towns and villages. It does however, seek to identify the whereabouts of productive ornithological sites, well known or otherwise. It is intended to keep this up to date in each future issue of the *LBR*. Each site name is followed by a six figure Ordnance Survey Grid Reference enabling sites to be pinpointed on the map above. The Grid Reference number either refers to the centre of the site or a point of particular ornithological interest. Readers should note that the inclusion of a site in this gazetteer does not imply public access; indeed some are strictly private or access is by permit only.

There has been considerable confusion caused in the past by contributors of records using inconsistent and unfamiliar place names and we would urge all contributors to use the names listed in this gazetteer whenever appropriate. In doubtful cases, please submit the record along with an Ordnance Survey Grid Reference number.

Aberdare Gardens	TQ260842	Bessels Green	TQ505555
Acton Green	TQ204790	Betchworth	TQ218505
Addington Hills	TQ353643	Beverley Brook, Richmond	TQ213726
Addlestone	TQ056643	Bexley Hospital	TQ513727
Albert Embankment	TQ303783	Bexley Wood	TQ483737
Aldenham Res	TQ169955	Biggin Hill	TQ457572
Alderbourne WCB	TQ029850	Bishops Wood	TQ066920
Alexandra Park	TQ302900	Black Park	TQ010836
Amwell GP	TL380125	Blackfriars Bridge	TQ317807
Apps Court Farm GP	TQ165625	Blackheath	TQ390766
Arbrook Common	TQ145630	Blackwall Basin	TQ381802
Archbishop's Park	TQ241761	Bletchingley	TQ326506
Ashford	TQ070715	Blue Lake, Northfleet	TQ622737
Ashted Common	TQ175595	Bookham Common	TQ130565
Aveley Landfill	TQ558812	Borehamwood	TQ195975
Balls Wood	TL344106	Bowman's Heath	TQ518738
Banbury Res	TQ362915	Bowmansgreen Farm	TL189041
Bangors Park Farm, Iver	TQ035824	Box Wood	TL353096
Bankside PS	TQ320806	Boxer's Lake, Enfield	TQ305962
Banstead Down	TQ252610	Brent Park	TQ240889
Banstead Heath	TQ235545	Brent Res	TQ215870
Banstead Wood	TQ260560	Brentford Ait	TQ187778
Barking Bay/Marsh	TQ451816	Brickendonbury	TL330104
Barn Elms WWT	TQ228770	Bricket Wood/Common	TL130010
Barnes	TQ222761	Brimsdon	TQ368970
Barnes Common	TQ222758	Brixton Hill	TQ306734
Barn Hill	TQ194874	Broad Colney Fields	TL180030
Barwell Court Farm	TQ170630	Broad Colney Lakes	TL178034
Barrack Wood	TQ597915	Broadgate EC2	TQ334817
Batchworth Lake	TQ058940	Broadwater	TQ045892
Batler's Green	TL158985	Brockwell Park	TQ316740
Battersea PS	TQ270770	Bromley Common	TQ415655
Battersea Park	TQ282772	Brompton Cemetery	TQ258777
Bayford	TL310084	Brooklands	TQ068620
Bayhurst Wood	TQ065892	Brookmans Park	TL253038
Bealieu Heights Wood	TQ334696	Broomfield Park	TQ304927
Beckenham Place Park	TQ385705	Broxbourne GP	TL379078
Beddington Corner	TQ281668	Broxbourne Woods	TL340080
Beddington Park	TQ292654	Bruce Castle Park	TQ336908
Beddington SF	TQ290662	Brunswick Park	TQ331769
Bedfont Lakes/GP	TQ078726	Buckhurst Hill GP	TQ425934
Bedford Park	TQ210791	Buckland SP	TQ227510
Bedfords Park	TQ518925	Buckland, Rectory Lane	TQ219513
Beech Farm GP	TL190086	Bugsby's Reach	TQ398798
Belair Park	TQ328733	Bully Point NR, Stratford	TQ374839
Bell Wharf, Harefield	TQ052866	Bulphan Fen	TQ633864
Bell Lance Fields	TL198040	Burgess Park	TQ335778
Belvedere PS	TQ499808	Burhill Allotments	TQ115635
Bencroft Wood	TL330064	Burnt Oak	TQ205912
Bentley Priory	TQ155927	Burwood Park	TQ100644
Berrybushes Wood	TL069007	Bury Lake	TQ053938
Berrylands	TQ192674	Bushy Park	TQ160690
Berwick Ponds	TQ543835	Camberwell Old Cemetery	TQ348742

Camley St Natural Park	TQ298836	Coursers Lane Fields	TL200040
Cannon Hill Common	TQ238683	Court Lane, Dulwich	TQ336739
Cannons Park	TQ182915	Cowley Lake	TQ052814
Carshalton Beeches	TQ272638	Cowley Peachy	TQ054814
Cassiobury Park	TQ090970	Crane Park	TQ126730
Cassiobury Park WCB	TQ090968	Cranley Gardens	TQ289890
Chalfont Lodge	TQ894899	Crayford Marsh	TQ532775
Chalfont Park	TQ013896	Crayford Ness	TQ532781
Chandlers Hill, Iver Hth	TQ035834	Creekmouth, Barking	TQ457814
Charlton GP	TQ087692	Crews Hill	TQ312000
Chelsea Bridge	TQ286778	Croham Hurst	TQ337632
Chelsfield	TQ482642	Crossness	TQ478815
Chelsham	TQ373589	Crossness East	TQ492809
Chertsey	TQ043664	Crouch End	TQ298885
Chertsey Meads	TQ060662	Crouch End Rec Ground	TQ295881
Cheshunt GP	TL370030	Croxley Green	TQ070955
Cheshunt GP (70 Acres GP) ...	TL874030	Croxley Hall GPs	TQ068943
Cheshunt GP (Bowyer's GP) ...	TL368018	Croxley Moor	TQ065956
Cheshunt GP (Friday Lake)	TL371020	Crystal Palace Park	TQ347707
Cheshunt GP (Police Pit)	TL371025	Cuddington Golf Club	TQ239615
Cheshunt GP (North Met GP) ..	TL369033	Cuffley	TL303030
Cheshunt Marsh	TL367018	Curtismill Green	TQ519965
Cheshunt Park Farm	TL355046	Dagenham Chase	TQ514858
Chevening	TQ488577	Dagenham Corridor	TQ495875
Chigwell Res	TQ460937	Dagnam Park	TQ550933
Chipstead Lake	TQ505565	Danson Park	TQ473748
Chiswell Green	TQ125047	Darenth Lake	TQ559710
Chiswick Eyot	TQ219779	Darenth Valley Walk	TQ560704
Chorleywood Common	TQ033963	Darenth Wood	TQ580727
City Road Basin, Islington	TQ322830	Darlands Lake	TQ243943
Clackett Lane Services	TQ425544	Dartford Heath	TQ516733
Clapton Common	TQ342878	Dartford Marsh	TQ544774
Clay Tye Wood	TQ595587	Dartford Marsh Pig Farm	TQ539769
Claybury	TQ435913	Deephams SF	TQ360937
Claygate Common	TQ161632	Delaford Park	TQ043818
Claygate Green	TQ157637	Denham Aerodrome	TQ033887
Clissold Park	TQ332867	Denham CP	TQ048865
Cobbins Brook	TL409018	Denham Quarry Lake	TQ045886
Coldfall Wood	TQ276903	Denham GC	TQ027883
Cole Green	TL282114	Denham Marsh Farm	TQ020884
Colindale	TQ210900	Denham Mount	TQ028874
Colnbrook	TQ025775	Denham Place	TQ040873
Colne Brook, Iver	TQ042813	Denham Station	TQ042878
Colney Heath	TL205062	Denham Village	TQ040870
Connaught Water	TQ404933	Desborough Island	TQ084664
Coopers Green Lane	TL193098	Dews Farm Lake	TQ052880
Coopersale	TQ480025	Ditton Field	TQ157679
Copped Hall	TL430010	Dobbs Weir	TL384043
Coppetts Wood	TQ277916	Dog Kennel Covert	TQ103783
Copse Wood	TQ085897	Downe Barns Farm	TQ105841
Corbets Tey	TQ577851	Dulwich College	TQ329736
Cornmill Meads	TL380011	Dulwich Golf Course	TQ339728
Coulsdon	TQ296593	Dulwich Mill Pond	TQ333731

Dulwich Park	TQ335735	Great Soloms Wood, Banstead	TQ272588
Dulwich Upper Wood	TQ339729	Great Warley	TQ583907
Dulwich Village	TQ334739	Greenhill Wood, Shoreham	TQ538602
Dulwich Woods	TQ340725	Greenhithe	TQ585753
Durant's Park, Ponders End ...	TQ357968	Green Park	TQ290800
Eagle Pond	TQ390884	Greenwich Park	TQ390775
Easney Wood	TL385137	Grovelands Park	TQ305944
East India Dock Basin	TQ391808	Gunnersbury Triangle NR	TQ201787
Edgwarebury Park	TQ190934	Gutteridge Wood	TQ091843
Elmbridge Leisure Centre	TQ107678	Haberdashers' Girls Sch'l	TL170965
Enfield Golf Course	TQ313962	Hadley Common	TQ265972
Enfield Lock	TQ368982	Hainault Forest	TQ476932
Enfield Town Park	TQ326963	Hall Marsh	TL373017
Epping Forest	TQ420985	Hall Place Gardens	TQ505743
Epping Upland	TL430050	Ham Lands	TQ165725
Epsom Common	TQ190605	Hampermill Lake	TQ095942
Epsom Downs	TQ211580	Hampstead Heath	TQ273866
Erith Marsh	TQ488805	Hampton	TQ133700
Erith Reach	TQ500788	Hampton Court Park	TQ166676
Esher Common	TQ135625	Hampton Hill	TQ150712
Essendon	TL274087	Hampton Waterworks	TQ127686
Essex Filter Beds	TQ363868	Hampton Wick	TQ175699
Ewell	TQ217624	Hanworth	TQ120718
Eynsford	TQ540655	Harefield	TQ050900
Fairmile Common	TQ125617	Harmondsworth GP	TQ050779
Fairlop Lake/Plain	TQ458459	Harold Wood SF	TQ565915
Farleigh	TQ367602	Harrow School	TQ157870
Farlowes Lake	TQ047810	Harrow Weald	TQ150910
Farringdon	TQ316818	Hartnips Wood	TQ547637
Fernyhill Farm, Enfield	TQ282981	Hatch End	TQ130914
Field Common GP	TQ128671	Hatfield Aerodrome	TL210090
Finsbury Circus	TQ312816	Hatfield Park	TL240080
Finsbury Park	TQ317875	Hatherop Park	TQ124704
Fishers Green	TL376044	Havering CP	TQ505930
Fitzroy Square	TQ294823	Hawk's Wood	TQ014862
Foots Cray Meadows	TQ480715	Hawkshead Wood	TQ220030
Foots Cray Woods	TQ479721	Hawkwood	TQ442695
Forster Park	TQ387722	Hays Wharf, SE1	TQ330804
Forty Hall, Enfield	TQ337987	Headley Heath	TQ200535
Frays Lake	TQ055865	Headstone	TQ139895
Frays Meadow, Uxbridge	TQ057853	Heathfield Rec Ground	TQ134743
Friern Barnet	TQ280925	Hendon Park	TQ233884
Frogmore GP, Radlett	TL150033	Henley Wood, Chelsham	TQ374587
Furzefield Wood	TL103055	Herne Hill Cycle Track	TQ326742
Gatton Park/Lake	TQ271525	Hersham GP	TQ128663
Gernon Bushes	TL490085	Hersham SF	TQ127657
Gladwin's Wood	TQ019864	Hertford Heath	TL349107
Godstone SP	TQ345518	Hertingfordbury	TL305122
Golders Green	TQ245883	Hextable	TQ522712
Grays	TQ610773	High Elms	TQ450630
Grays Chalk Pits	TQ609788	Highgate Wood	TQ283887
Great Amwell	TL368122	Highway Farm, Harefield	TQ060881
Great Halings Wood	TQ032895	Hilfield Park Res	TQ158959

Hill End	TQ050918	Ladywell Park	TQ372740
Hinchley Wood	TQ157650	Lafone St, SE1	TQ338799
Hither Green Cemetery	TQ398729	Laleham Park	TQ053680
Hither Green NR	TQ390740	Langley Park	TQ013814
Hoblingwell Wood	TQ450690	Layham's Farm	TQ400627
Hoddesdonpark Wood	TL352084	Leaves Green	TQ415615
Hogsmill SF	TQ197682	Lee	TQ395750
Hogwood	TQ555631	Limpsfield	TQ402531
Holland Park	TQ248796	Limpsfield Chart	TQ445523
Hollow Pond	TQ414873	Little Britain Lake	TQ049813
Holmethorpe SP	TQ295515	Little Venice	TQ263818
Holyfield Hall Farm	TL384038	Littlebrook Lake	TQ553756
Home Cottage Farm	TQ028825	Littlebrook PS	TQ563764
Honor Oak	TQ358742	Long Coppice	TQ031849
Hooks Marsh	TL373023	Long Ditton	TQ174664
Hornchurch CP	TQ535825	Long Reach SF	TQ553768
Horton CP	TQ190627	Lonsdale Road Res	TQ218775
Horton Fields	TQ015764	Lordship Lane Rec Ground	TQ326902
Horton GP	TQ005753	Loseberry Farm, Claygate	TQ148636
Horton Kirby	TQ565686	Love Hill House Farm, Iver	TQ013810
Hounslow Heath	TQ123745	Lower Feltham	TQ099838
Howell Hill, Ewell	TQ238621	Lullingstone Lake/Park	TQ523644
Hunston Mead	TL422114	Lynster's Farm	TQ034920
Hunton Bridge Hill	TL076006	Mad Bess Wood	TQ076895
Huntsmoor Park	TQ047815	Malden Rushett	TQ169615
Hyde Park	TQ270803	Mansfield Farm, Iver Heath	TQ039836
Hythe	TQ020718	Maple Lodge NR	TQ036924
Ingrebourne Valley	TQ538843	Martens Grove	TQ505752
Island Barn Res	TQ140670	Maryon Wilson Park	TQ419785
Isleworth Ait	TQ167757	Mayow Park	TQ358718
Itchingwood Common	TQ416506	Merchant Taylors' School	TQ088940
Iver Heath	TQ033835	Merstham Sewage Works	TQ303523
Jersey Farm	TL174097	Middlesex Filter Beds	TQ359865
Joyce Green Hospital	TQ547760	Mill Green SF	TL245100
Joyce Green Hospital Farm	TQ545765	Millwall Docks	TQ377795
Joyden's Wood	TQ500715	Mitcham Common	TQ290675
Jubilee Gardens	TQ318803	Moat Mount Open Space	TQ215944
Juniper Hill, Rickmansworth	TQ060931	Molesey GP	TQ129671
Juniper Wood	TQ025895	Molesey Heath	TQ132672
Kelsey Park	TQ376688	Moor Mill	TL145030
Kempton Park	TQ117700	Moor Park GC	TQ075935
Kempton Park Res	TQ122702	Moorhall GP	TQ048889
Kenley Aerodrome	TQ328587	Moorhouse	TQ433532
Kensington Gardens	TQ270803	Morden Hall Park	TQ264687
Kenton Recreation Ground	TQ165890	Muswell Hill	TQ282900
Keston Ponds	TQ426645	Nashes Farm	TL180096
Kevington	TQ482675	Navestock Lake/Park	TQ538985
Kew Gardens	TQ182769	Nazeing GP	TL385072
King George V Res	TQ374964	Netherhall GP	TL394083
King George VI Res	TQ041732	New Beckenham	TQ367710
King's Cross Development	TQ834302	New Cross Railway Cutting	TQ363768
Korda Lake	TQ045886	New Denham	TQ046849
Kynaston Wood	TQ482672	New Southgate	TQ292925

Nightingale Wood	TQ038888	Primrose Hill	TQ276839
Noke Farm	TL125037	Prince George's Playing Fields	TQ235688
Nonsuch Park	TQ232638	Princes Coverts	TQ160610
Norbury Park	TQ310699	Purfleet	TQ550783
North Cray	TQ490723	Purfleet Chalk Pits	TQ566785
Northaw Great Wood	TL285044	Putney Heath	TQ230739
Northolt RAF Aerodrome	TQ100850	Pygro Park	TQ524935
Norwood Grove	TQ333704	Pynesfield North Lake	TQ039909
Nower Wood	TQ195547	Pynesfield South Lake	TQ038912
Nunhead Cemetery	TQ355756	Queen Elizabeth II Res	TQ120670
Nutfield Ridge	TQ293540	Queen Mary GP	TQ059700
Oak Hill Park	TQ277947	Queen Mary Res	TQ070695
Oak Hill Wood	TQ280952	Queen Mother Res	TQ017773
Oakend Wood	TQ020890	Queens Wood, Highgate	TQ283887
Oakmere Park	TL264014	Rainham GP	TQ549829
Old Parkbury	TL163023	Rainham Marsh	TQ525800
Old Slade Lakes	TQ040780	Rammey Marsh	TQ996374
Old Wood, Richings Park	TQ031781	Ranston Covert	TQ041890
One Tree Hill, Honor Oak	TQ354743	Ravensbury Park	TQ268681
Ongar Park Wood	TL495025	Ravenscourt Park	TQ223790
Orsett Fen	TQ628833	Raynes Park	TQ231684
Osterley Park	TQ145780	Regent's Park	TQ277830
Oxhey Wood	TQ105925	Reigate Hill	TQ255522
Oxleas Wood	TQ450686	Richings Park	TQ030794
Oxted, Hurst Green	TQ396512	Richmond Park	TQ200730
Oylers Farm	TL350005	Rickmansworth Aquadrome	TQ057940
Panshanger Park	TL283130	Riddlesdown	TQ326602
Park Downs, Banstead	TQ267585	Ridgehill	TL202025
Park Farm, Chessington	TQ181623	Riverside Open Space,	TQ143693
Park Farm, Enfield	TQ292983	Rockingham Rec Ground	TQ058837
Park Street GP	TL149024	Roding Valley Meadows	TQ435956
Park Wood	TQ095890	Roehyde	TL210010
Parkland Walk	TQ294902	Rowdow Wood	TQ547595
Parkside Farm/Res, Enfield	TQ303982	Rowley Farm	TQ004828
Parndon Meads	TL433113	Royal Albert Dock	TQ425807
Paynes Lane GP	TL380052	Royal Victoria Dock	TQ410807
Peckham Rye Park	TQ348750	Ruislip Common	TQ085893
Pen Ponds, Richmond Park	TQ200730	Ruislip Gardens	TQ095863
Penton Hook	TQ043692	Ruislip Lido	TQ089891
Perry Oaks SF	TQ054758	Rush Green, Hertford	TL350127
Petersham Meadows	TQ180736	Rushett Farm	TQ173608
Petts Wood	TQ445670	Ruxley GP	TQ473700
Pickett's Lock	TQ361945	Rye House Marsh	TL383103
Pilvage Wood	TL236028	Rye Meads/Rye Meads SF	TL388102
Pinner Park	TQ132905	Salisbury Hall Farm	TL195028
Polhill	TQ500610	Sanderstead	TQ344614
Pond Wood	TL279006	Savay Lake	TQ049880
Ponders End Lake	TQ362946	Saxten's Wood	TQ585648
Poplar Docks	TQ382803	Scadbury Park	TQ455700
Post Wood	TL363131	Scotsbridge Meadows	TQ064955
Potters Bar	TL250012	Scratch Wood, Surrey	TQ271593
Potters Crouch Plantation	TL103050	Sevenoaks Reserve	TQ522570
Prae Wood	TQ120070	Sewardstone	TQ379985

Shadwell Basin	TQ352807	Tatling End	TQ020870
Sheen Common	TQ196746	Telegraph Hill, Claygate	TQ159647
Sheepwash Pond	TQ224928	Ten Acre Wood	TQ094720
Shenleybury	TL183018	Thames Ditton	TQ158673
Shepherds Bush	TQ228805	Thamesmead	TQ474811
Shepperton GP	TQ065674	The Basin, Edgware	TQ188919
Silvertown	TQ412799	The Causeway NR	TQ105754
Slipe Lane GP	TL370049	The Clump, Iver Heath	TQ022845
Smallford GP	TL198071	Theobalds Park, Enfield	TL345005
Sopwell Mill, St Albans	TL154054	Thistledene, Thames Ditton ...	TQ155673
South Harrow	TQ135861	Thrift's Pit	TL366132
South Norwood CP	TQ353684	Thorndon Park	TQ620916
South Norwood Lake	TQ341693	Thorney CP	TQ048790
South Ruislip	TQ115860	Thorney Weir Lake Lake	TQ051799
Southwood Manor Farm	TQ116632	Thorpe Water Park	TQ030681
Sparrows Wood	TQ436667	Tilehouse North Lake	TQ038898
Spitalfields/Bishopsgate	TQ334818	Tilehouse South Lake	TQ038896
Spring Ponds	TQ165932	Titsey	TQ409551
Springfield Marina	TQ347878	Tolpits Lake	TQ085943
Springwell Lake	TQ043932	Tolworth	TQ194659
Springwell Lock	TQ044923	Tottenham Cemetery	TQ333911
Springwell Reedbed	TQ041924	Tottenham Lock	TQ348895
St Anns Hill, Chertsey	TQ038674	Tottenham Marsh	TQ354910
St James's Park	TQ294798	Totteridge Long Pond	TQ234942
St Saviour's Creek, SE1	TQ340799	Tower Bridge	TQ337802
St Thomas's Hospital	TQ307793	Tower of London	TQ337806
Stain Hill Res	TQ124693	Tower Wood, Westerham	TQ448528
Staines Moor	TQ033734	Trent Park	TQ290970
Staines Res	TQ051731	Trevereux/Swaynesland	TQ433504
Stanborough Lakes	TL230108	Troy Mill Lake	TQ039905
Stanmore CP	TQ175930	Turnford Brook	TL368037
Stanmore Common	TQ156940	Turnford Marsh GP	TL370044
Stanstead Abbotts GP	TL391109	Tyler's Common, Upminster ...	TQ568907
Stanwell Moor	TQ040743	Tyttenhanger GP	TQ191865
Stanwell Moor GP	TQ034744	Upper Halliford	TQ091680
Stapleford Tawney	TQ503900	Upper Norwood	TQ329699
Streatham Common	TQ305709	Vauxhall Bridge	TQ303781
Stocker's Lake	TQ046935	Verulamium Lake	TL140070
Stocker's West Lake	TQ053938	Vicarage Farm, Enfield	TQ305975
Stocker's Farm	TQ053934	Victoria Park	TQ360837
Stockley Park	TQ080790	Waddon Ponds	TQ309650
Stoke Newington Res	TQ326876	Wallington Green Nurseries	TQ290625
Stone Chalk Pit	TQ566753	Walsingham Wood	TL243040
Stone Lake	TQ565752	Waltham Cross	TL362003
Stone Marsh	TQ568755	Waltham Cross GP	TL369006
Sundridge Park	TQ410700	Waltham Marsh	TL373013
Surrey Docks	TQ360797	Walthamstow Marsh	TQ350878
Sutton at Hone Lakes	TQ560700	Walthamstow Res	TQ353980
Swanscombe Marsh	TQ605760	Walton Heath	TQ232540
Sydenham Hill	TQ335722	Walton Res	TQ122685
Symondshyde Great Wood	TL195110	Wanstead Park	TQ415875
Syon Park	TQ175765	Warley Place	TQ582909
Tandridge	TQ376505	Warlingham	TQ358581

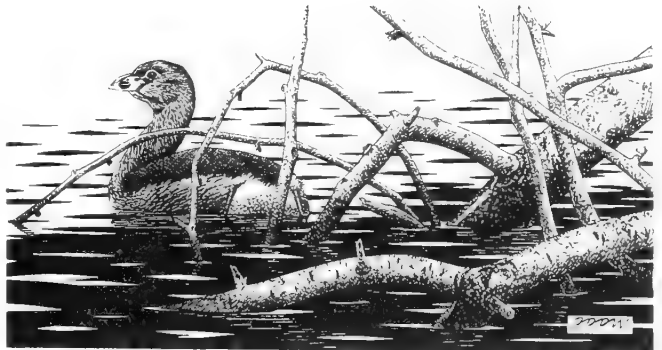
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Watts Wood, Purfleet	TQ565788	Winchmore Hill	TQ316946
Weald Park	TQ570945	Windsor Open Space	TQ241905
Welham Green	TL235055	Winterdown Woods	TQ123622
Wells Park	TQ345717	Wintry Wood	TL475035
West Byfleet	TQ048607	Wm Girling Res	TQ367945
West End Common	TQ125632	Woldingham	TQ370572
West Hyde Fields	TQ030910	Wood Green Res	TQ304900
West Hyde Lake	TQ038916	Woodford GC	TQ395928
West India South Dock	TQ376800	Woodlands Park	TQ038830
West Kingsdown	TQ580626	Woodlands Park Lake	TQ098836
West Ruislip GC	TQ081872	Woodmansterne	TQ276597
West Thurrock	TQ582770	Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross	TQ033933
Westerham Heights	TQ430560	Worcester Park	TQ222655
Westminster Bridge	TQ305796	Wormley Wood	TL322058
Wey Meadows, Weybridge	TQ067645	Wormwood Scrubs	TQ221818
Whitgift Centre, Croydon	TQ323657	Wraysbury GP	TQ015735
Whitewebbs Wood/Lake	TQ325997	Wraysbury Res	TQ025745
Whyteleafe	TQ337582	Yeading Brook Meadows	TQ105835
Willett Wood	TQ452685	Yiewsley Lake	TQ049804
Wimbledon Common	TQ247723		



Review of the Year

With no additions made to the London List, 1998 was far from a classic year. There were several rarities recorded, although two of these were over-stayers from the previous year - Pied-billed Grebe at Tooting Common and Green-winged Teal at Beddington SF. The rarest bird of the year was a Cattle Egret at Wanstead Park on May 10th - the second record for the London Area. A Blue-winged Teal at Hilfield Park Res on Aug 25th was the fourth record, a Lesser Yellowlegs at Rainham Marsh the following day was the seventh record and a Night Heron at Sevenoaks Reserve was the ninth record. Despite the lack of rarities there were still enough birds seen for one of our intrepid members to break the London Yearlist record (see article on page 210).

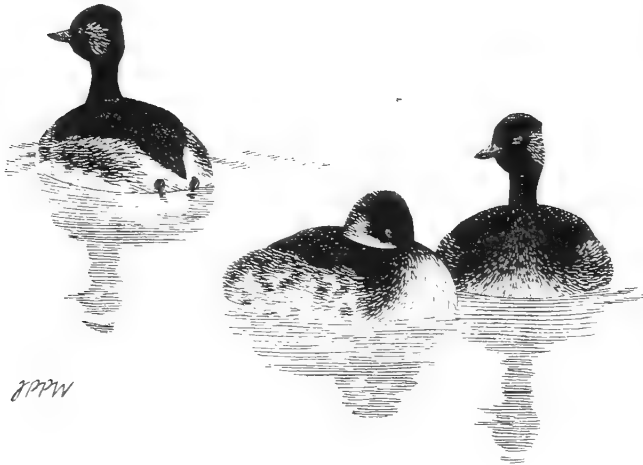
JANUARY started with several notable birds remaining from 1997: **Pied-billed Grebe** at Tooting Common Lake (until Feb 12th); two **Eider** at Walthamstow Res (until Jan 4th); a **Glaucous Gull** in the Lea Valley and the usual **Long-tailed Duck** in the Colne Valley (until May 6th). Also on the 1st, were 2-3 **Red-throated Divers** in the Royal Docks complex which stayed all month and two **Red-necked Grebes** at King George V Res which remained until



March. Stormy weather on Jan 2nd brought in a few surprises: a **Leach's Petrel** at Brent Res; two skeins of **Pink-footed Geese** over Charlton and a **Pomarine Skua** at Walthamstow Res - none of which were seen again in London all year. A large flock of **White-fronted Geese** flew over Dartford Marsh on the 6th, the same day that brought the first of three **Great Northern Divers** into our area this month. A **Garganey** that had been seen once in December 1997 re-appeared in the mild weather at Amwell GP on Jan 10th for two days. Also on the 10th, a **Kittiwake** made a rare appearance in Inner London when one was seen at Surrey Docks. A **Glaucous Gull** which turned up at Rainham Marsh on the 11th was a forerunner of a small influx of white-winged gulls into our area, as another seven Glaucous appeared along with three **Iceland Gulls** this month, mainly in the Lea Valley and at Rainham Marsh. A **Black-throated Diver** appeared at King George V Res on the 14th for a four week stay. A second long-staying American rarity in Surrey, in the form of a **Green-winged Teal** (first seen in December 1997) re-appeared at Beddington SF on 17th, and then remained in the area until February. One of only two reports of **Mealy Redpoll** this year came from Paynes Lane GP where 22 were seen on 18th and 24th. A single **Brent Goose** was also noted at Swanscombe Marsh on the latter date.

FEBRUARY opened with four **Red-breasted Mergansers** at the Royal Docks on the 1st as well as a huge count of 144 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Grays. There was one **Brent Goose** at Beddington on the 7th and another at Staines the following day. Both of these days saw new Iceland Gulls arrive. Unseasonably warm conditions encouraged three **Red Kites** to add some colour to the area on

the 16th, with two at Rickmansworth Golf Course and one at Edgware. A **Little Egret** then spent the next day at Brent Res. Another lone **Brent Goose** appeared, this time at Queen Mother Res on the 20th. A **Red-necked Grebe** started a month-long spell at Chipstead Lake on the 21st but a **Ring-billed Gull** which was seen at Rainham Marsh the same day was not so obliging. Yet another **Red Kite** was seen, this time at Beddington SF on the 23rd. The month ended with a



peak of **five Black-necked Grebes** at Staines Res and a **Merlin** at Walton Heath, both on the 28th.

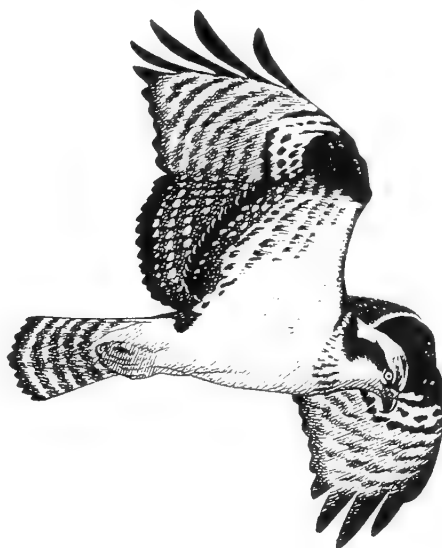
MARCH continued in a similar vein with a single **Brent Goose** at Sevenoaks Reserve on the 1st. The first summer migrant was yet again a **Wheatear**, although its arrival on the 4th at Hounslow Heath was still very early. A **Red-throated Diver** was at Island Barn Res on the 6th, and on the 7th, the next summer migrant, predictably a **Sand Martin**, at Queen Mother Res, turned up,

along with a **Glaucous Gull** at Beckton. Continuing the gull theme, an **Iceland Gull** appeared at Wm Girling Res the next day and a **Ring-billed Gull** made the first of several appearances at Greenwich this month on the 9th, the same day as a very early **Whimbrel** at Silvertown. A **Garganey** at Amwell on the 10th was presumably a new arrival rather than the one which was seen sporadically in winter. The first **Little Ringed Plover** returned on the 13th and a **Merlin** was noted at Walthamstow Res the following day. Up to two **Iceland Gulls** roosted at Queen Mother Res from the 18th into April. A **Hen Harrier** on the 19th at Horton GP was one of only two records this year in our area. An influx of notable birds arrived on the 21st with a peak of six **Black-necked Grebes** at Wm Girling Res, a **Sandwich Tern** at Staines Res, a **Willow Warbler** at Greenwich Park and a **Cetti's Warbler** which took up residence in Middlesex. **Common Scoter** passed through on the 23rd with two at Fairlop and Queen Elizabeth II Res and four at Wm Girling Res. Proving that one **Swallow** doesn't make a summer, one at Queen Mother Res on the 27th was the same day a **Merlin** was found at Hornchurch CP. On the 28th, two **Avocets** were at Barking and a **Slavonian Grebe** appeared at King George VI Res. The last two days saw record high night time temperatures and heralded another influx of migrants: with a **Goshawk** over Cheshunt, a **Hoopoe** at Hainault, a **Yellow Wagtail** at Queen Mother Res, all on the 30th then **Tree Pipit** and **Sedge Warbler** on the 31st

APRIL started with eight **Black-necked Grebes** at Queen Elizabeth II Res and an **Avocet** at nearby Walton Res on the 1st. The first **Common Terns** returned the next day at **Brent Res** and **Island Barn Res**. A **Ring Ouzel** at Beddington SF on the 4th was the first of many this month. A **House Martin** was seen the following day and on the 6th, the first **Common Whitethroat** returned to Bedfont Lakes CP. The first **Grasshopper Warbler** was located on the 7th at Rainham Marsh. The 8th saw both winter and summer migrants with a **Merlin** at Broxbourne Woods and a **Redstart** at Hornchurch CP and **Reed Warbler** at

Middlesex Filter Beds. A **Goshawk** and a **Merlin** were both seen at Tyttenhanger GP on the 10th. Summer migrants continued to arrive with **Garden Warbler** on the 11th, **Nightingale** on the 12th, **Cuckoo** and **Whinchat** on the 13th, and **Hobby** and **Swift** on the 16th. A **Cetti's Warbler** was trapped at Wraysbury GP on the 18th. On the 21st, 1-2 **Bearded Tits** were heard at Berwick Ponds and **Turtle Dove** and **Pied Flycatcher** both put in their first appearance. Fine weather on the 22nd brought an influx of raptors into the area with **Marsh Harrier** at Beddington SF and Dagenham Chase and **Ospreys** at Regent's Park and Tyttenhanger GP as well as the first **Black Tern**. This was also the start of a major influx of both **Ring Ouzels** and **Wheatears** into the area. New arrivals on the 23rd included **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Wood Warbler** but a female **Serin** in Regent's Park was much more unexpected. After an **Arctic Tern** at Brent Res on the 24th, the only other notable birds were a **Red Kite** at Beddington SF and an **Iceland Gull** over Tyttenhanger GP on the 26th and an **Osprey** over East Ham on the 28th.

MAY began with a well-watched **Stone Curlew** at Essex Filter Beds, the first to be twitchable in many years. Also on the 1st was the start of a large passage of **Arctic Terns** through the area with 92 counted at four sites. The next day saw a further 364 at 11 sites along with a **Great Northern Diver** at Queen Mary Res; **Marsh Harriers** over both Brent Res and Hampstead Heath and one at Rainham Marsh; a **Little Tern** at Walthamstow Res; and the first **Spotted Flycatcher** - at Sevenoaks Reserve. The last winter visitor, a **Brambling**, was seen at Havering CP on the 3rd, a day which also saw more **Marsh Harriers**: at both Fairlop Lake and Hornchurch CP as well as a peak of six **Bar-tailed Godwits** heading N over Fishers Green and another 104 **Arctic Terns**. Large raptors continued to move through London the next day with **Ospreys** at Bowyer's GP/Hall Marsh and Chingford while a **Golden Oriole** was heard singing at Sanderstead. A **Temminck's Stint** at Kempton Park Res on the 8th was the only one in spring; a **Little Egret** also began a four day stay at Swanscombe Marsh. On the 10th, three **Black-necked Grebes** appeared at Brent Res and two **Little Terns** were at Queen Elizabeth II Res but the best bird was a **Cattle Egret** at Wanstead. The 12th saw the last regular summer visitor to arrive - a **Nightjar**. The first of three **Quails** this month arrived the next day and a **Marsh Warbler** held territory in Essex from the 14th. An **Osprey** flew over Cheshunt GP on the 16th. The second **Golden Oriole** of spring arrived at the favoured site of Hampstead Heath on the 17th while just to the south, an **Osprey** flew over Regent's Park. Another **Osprey** flew over on the 20th, at Chingford along with a **Marsh Harrier** over Hooks Marsh. A **Red-backed Shrike** was seen at Hampstead Heath on the 21st while Queen Elizabeth II Res recorded the spring peak of nine **Whimbrel**. Rainham



Marsh claimed a **Little Egret** on the 28th while yet another **Osprey** flew over, this time at Walthamstow Res on the 30th.

JUNE took a few days to get going before two **Little Egrets** put in an appearance at Barn Elms WWT on the 4th. An unseasonal **Brent Goose** was a surprise find at Queen Elizabeth II Res on the 5th and the following day another two **Little Egrets** were located at Swanscombe Marsh. A fine male **Red-backed Shrike** was found at Edgware on the 7th. Two more **Cetti's Warblers** turned up: a male which held territory in Essex from the 11th and one at Cheshunt GP on the 14th - the same day a **Marsh Harrier** was seen at both Crayford and Dartford Marshes. The last good bird of the month was a short-staying **Spoonbill** at Walthamstow Res on the 28th that was downed by a thunder storm.

The **BREEDING SEASON** was mixed again but was notable for raptors in the Essex sector with both **Peregrine** and **Common Buzzard** successfully raising young. **Black-necked Grebes** bred again at Hilfield Park Res but show no sign of spreading. A pair of **Garganey** with two young at Rainham Marsh indicated local breeding. After the 1997 **Crossbill** invasion, enough of them hung around to breed in the area. Unfortunately there was bad news as well with the **Tree Sparrows** at Beddington SF declining again.

JULY was relatively quiet, with the weather being dominated by light SW winds, although there were a few nice birds around. The first of these was a male **Red-backed Shrike** at Barking Marsh on the 4th, followed by a **Red Kite** over Stocker's Lake on the 8th. The most unexpected bird of the month was a **Manx Shearwater** that spent four days at Walton Res from the 30th.

AUGUST began with the second **Stone Curlew** of the year, at Beckton on the 1st. A **Marsh Harrier** flew over Beddington SF on the 2nd. **Little Egrets** were seen at Kempton Park Res on the 3rd and 4th and at Barn Elms WWT on the latter date. Another **Marsh Harrier** flew over, this time at Chipstead Lake on the 5th. The following day a **Little Tern** was seen at Beckton. The second **Little Egret** at Barn Elms WWT this month appeared on the 10th and remained until the next day, when a **Marsh Harrier** flew over Richmond Park. Rainham Marsh claimed the next **Little Egret** with one on the 12th. An early **Bittern** started a week long stay at Amwell from the 17th. The fourth **Marsh Harrier** of the month was seen at Beddington SF on the 19th. Also on the 19th, an **Arctic Skua** appeared at Queen Elizabeth II Res, staying until the following day when it was also seen flying over Molesey Heath. Two rarities were then found on consecutive days with a drake **Blue-winged Teal** at Hilfield Park Res on the 25th and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Rainham on the 26th and 27th. A **Cetti's Warbler** was reported from Broadwater on the latter date. The 29th brought in three **Little Egrets**: one at Dagenham Chase and two at Sevenoaks Reserve. A **Sabine's Gull** was found on the Thames at Crossness on the 30th where it stayed for three weeks.

SEPTEMBER opened with the first of two **Fulmars** this month that required rehabilitation: one was picked up in South Croydon on the 1st. An adult **Red-necked Grebe** began a four day stay at Queen Elizabeth II Res from the 3rd. A good passage of terns this month started with 28 **Sandwich Terns** at four sites on the 4th. This continued the following day with 410 **Common Terns** at Barking, two **Little Terns** at Northfleet and 463 **Black Terns** at 15 sites, along with an **Osprey** at Brent Res plus peaks of eight **Knot** at Barking, six **Curlew Sandpipers**

at Rainham and a **Wryneck** in St Albans. An **Osprey** flew over on the 6th at Amwell. On the 8th, another flock of eight **Curlew Sandpipers** was seen, this time at Beech Farm. The next day, a **Cetti's Warbler** was heard again at Broadwater. Tyttenhanger GP was the next location to get an **Osprey**, with one there on the 10th. The second **Fulmar** was taken into care on the 11th at Romford, while another **Osprey** flew over Amwell on the 12th. Another **Wryneck** was seen, this time at Rye Meads on the 13th. An invasion of **Little Stints** occurred this month but with a peak of 30 at Purfleet/Rainham on the 13th, it was much smaller than the last influx in 1996. Inner London claimed its second **Serin** of the year when one flew N over Paddington Green on the 17th. The following day a **Red-backed Shrike** was found at Essex Filter Beds. A high pressure system then dominated the weather for the next week and encouraged more raptors with an **Osprey** over Rye Meads on the 19th and **Marsh Harriers** continued their good showing this year with two more: at Beddington SF on the 20th and Trent Park on the 29th. Between these dates, an **Osprey** flew over Bedmond on the 25th and a **Great Skua** was seen at Beddington SF on the 28th. Also, on the 29th, a **Richard's Pipit** was found at Wormwood Scrubs.

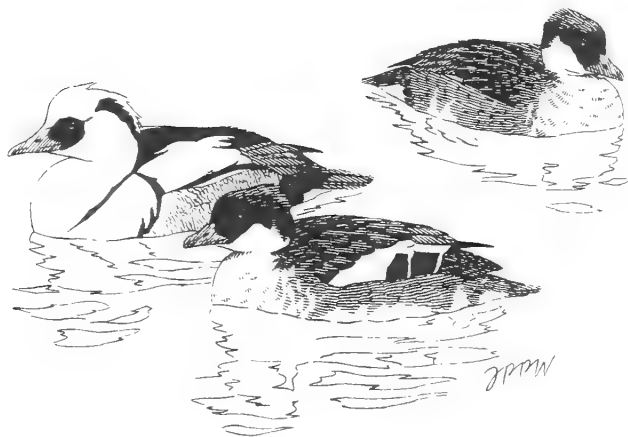


OCTOBER started with an **Osprey** over Tottenham Marsh and nine **Little Gulls** at Queen Elizabeth II Res on the 1st and the autumn's peak count of 13 **Black-necked Grebes** at Wm Girling Res the next day. An influx of interesting birds occurred on the 3rd due to the easterly airflow, with a **Slavonian Grebe** at Island Barn Res; 49 **Brent Geese** at Barking and c60 at Beddington; a **Merlin** at St Albans; an **Avocet** at Barking Bay and Rainham Marsh; a **Temminck's Stint** at Sevenoaks Reserve; a **Red-necked Phalarope** at King George VI Res; a **Red-throated Pipit** over Beddington SF and the start of a large movement of **Ring Ouzels** in the SE of England which saw 21 in the London Area over the following six days. Staines Res was the place to be on the 4th with the previous day's **Red-necked Phalarope** moving here along with an **Avocet** and a **Slavonian Grebe**, of which two more turned up: at King George VI Res and Walthamstow Res. A **Gannet** over Beddington the next day was a surprise. Another influx of birds into the area on the 6th saw two **Slavonian Grebes** at Staines; four **Brent Geese** and an **Avocet** at Rainham Marsh; and 30 **Little Gulls** at Queen Elizabeth II Res. Large raptors were on the move on the 7th with an **Osprey** over Nore Hill and a **Marsh Harrier** over Regent's Park, where a **Hawfinch** was also seen. Visible migration continued the next day with five **Woodlarks** over Surrey Docks and 307 **Swallows** over Brent Res. Two **Brent Geese** were seen at Rainham Marsh on the 11th and a **Great Grey Shrike** spent the day at Pinner Park Farm on the 12th. The following day a **Lapland Bunting** was discovered at Horton Fields. The 15th saw more visible migration with 691 **Chaffinches** over Surrey Docks and 100 over Hampstead Heath, in addition to another **Brent Goose** at Rainham. The finch passage continued the next day

with 51 **Bramblings** counted over Surrey Docks. Rainham Marsh showed its attraction for winter raptors with a **Hen Harrier** and a **Merlin** on the 18th, the former beginning a month long stay. A **Snow Bunting** was seen at King George V Res on the 22nd and 23rd, while just down the road, an obliging **Richard's Pipit** was found on Chingford Plain and stayed for ten days. Towards the end of the month, another two **Merlins** were seen: at Queen Elizabeth II Res on the 28th and at Rainham on the 29th.

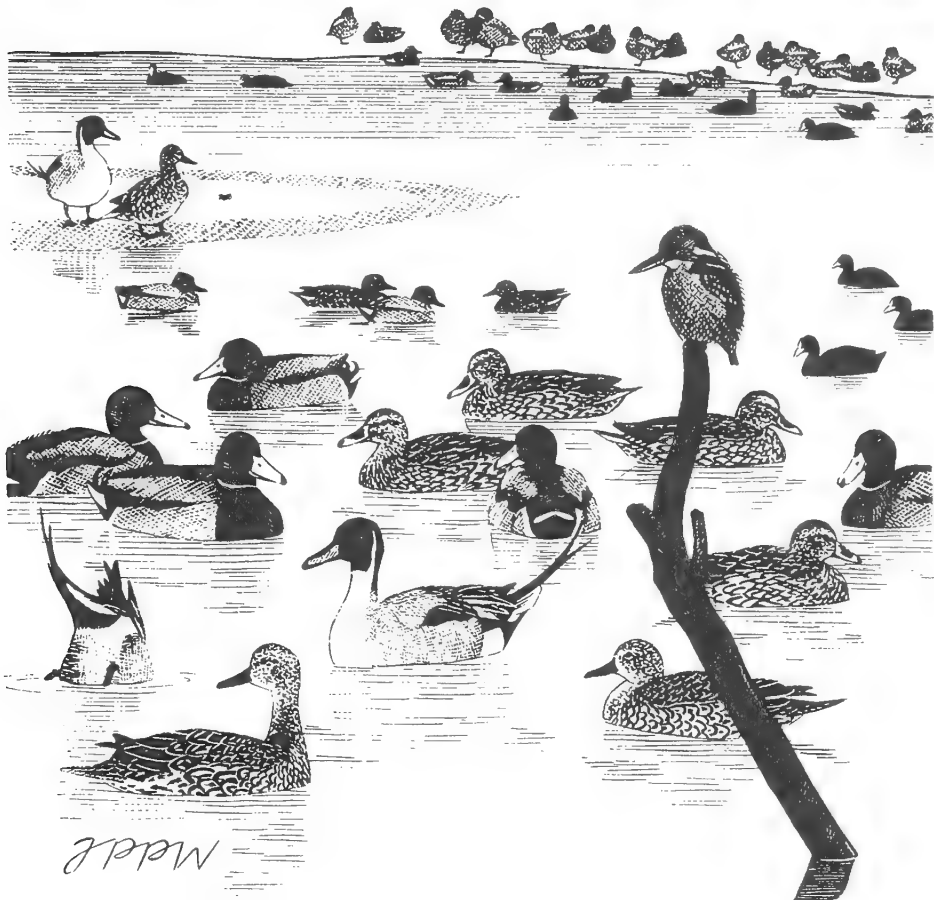
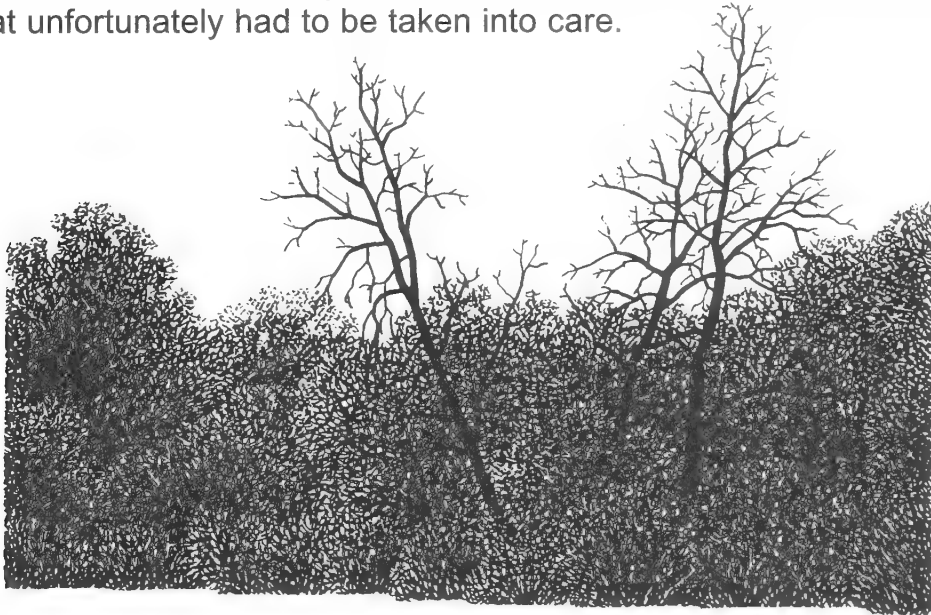
NOVEMBER began as the last month finished - with a **Merlin** at Rainham, but more unusual was the **Little Auk** at Wm Girling Res. More passage occurred on the 1st with 1500 **Fieldfares** and 190 **Chaffinches** at Beddington SF, another 193 of the latter species along with 30 **Greenfinches** flew over Brent Res, and 80 **Linnets** flew over Morden Hall Park. Two **Avocets** were found at Staines Res on the 2nd and remained there until the next day, this proved to be the place to see them as more were found here later in the month. The 5th was a red letter day with a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** found at Beaulieu Heights Wood being the only truly twitchable one in the London Area. This was another day for **Fieldfare** passage, especially in NW London as 603 were seen over Brent Res and 700 counted at Hampstead Heath. Visible migration continued the next day with 423 **Chaffinches** over Surrey Docks and 120 over Greenwich Park. The latter site then had another 240 **Chaffinches** on the 7th along with 15+ **Bramblings**. Elsewhere on the 7th, a **Night Heron** was found at Sevenoaks Reserve, the regular wintering **Long-tailed Duck** returned at Queen Mother Res, a **Wryneck** was seen at Rye Meads and a **Shorelark** at Rainham Marsh reflected the influx of this species onto the East Coast of England, possibly associated with the SE winds prevailing at this time. Apart from an **Avocet** at Rainham Marsh on the 11th and 12th, things were rather quiet over the next two weeks. A **Great Northern Diver** appeared at Hilfield Park Res on the 18th and on the 21st, a **Black-throated**

Diver and **Red-necked Grebe** were found at Wm Girling Res along with a superb flock of eight **Eider** at Queen Elizabeth II Res, five of which remained into 1999. The first **Smew** of winter was discovered at Walthamstow Res on the 22nd and the next day a **Merlin** was seen at Dartford Marsh. The year's only record of Bewick's Swan occurred on 27th when a flock of seven flew over St Albans.



Red-necked Grebe at King George V Res; a **Little Egret** at Yeading Brook Meadows; and 17 **Brent Geese** at Staines Res and 15 at Queen Mother Res all on the 1st. Two **Velvet Scoters** were found at Island Barn Res on the 2nd, while the following day a **Red-necked Grebe** was seen at Chipstead Lake. A flock of 10 **White-fronted Geese** landed at Park Street GP on the 3rd and remained for the rest of the month and a **Brent Goose** was seen at Hilfield Park Res. Three **Slavonian Grebes** were located in four days: at Wm Girling Res on the 4th; at

Stocker's Lake on the 5th and 6th; and at Wraysbury GPs on the 7th. Also in this period, a **Snow Bunting** was found at Walthamstow Res on the 4th, the year's only **Whooper Swan** was at King George VI Res on the 5th and a **White-fronted Goose** flew over Queen Elizabeth II Res on the 6th. A **Red Kite** over Richmond Park on the 16th was an excellent record, while a **Brent Goose** the same day at Queen Mother Res stayed for another two days when it was joined by another with both of them remaining until the 23rd. An early start to the day was made on Christmas Day when 1704 **Ring-necked Parakeets** were counted leaving their roost at Hershams. Also on this day, an **Iceland Gull** was found on the River Thames at Wandsworth. The year ended with a **Guillemot** at Beddington on the 30th that unfortunately had to be taken into care.



Contributors to the Systematic List

All contributors of ornithological records to the Society in 1998 are listed below. We apologise if any names have been inadvertently omitted. Many records of scarce species listed in Birds of the London Area 1998 are attributed to the observer who found or reported the bird and the attribution normally consists of the observer's initials. However if more than one observer possesses the same initials, a letter from the attributed observer's surname may be used. Such observers have the initials used to identify them listed below after their name.

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R. Andrews	D.P.Boyle	G. Court (GC)
R.D. Andrews	P. Bradbeer (PB)	J. Court (Jct)
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T. Austin	Lea Valley Park	A. Crocker (ACr)
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	R. Bullock (RBk)	D. Curtis (DC)
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A.W. Banyard	T.S. Caine	D. De Silva (DD)
S.E. Barbato	R.M. Callf	G. De Silva (GD)
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J. Bedford (JBd)	J.P. Charteris	N. Duckworth
R.G. Beer	D.K. Chivers	S.M Dungey
A.A. Bell	A. Clancy (AC)	

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| B. Elson | D. Goodwin (DGn) | R.S. Hoad |
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| H.W. Evans | C.R. Grafton | J.W. Houghton |
| L.G.R. Evans | E. Greeves | D. Housely (DH) |
| R.D. Evans | R. Green (RG) | S. Huggins (SHs) |
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| | A. Greensmith (AGh) | J.R. Hunter |
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| A.V. Fisher | (HRG) | N.J. Iunguis |
| B. Fisher | Richmond Park Wildlife | |
| G. Fisher | Group (RPWG) | G. James |
| J. Fitzpatrick (JF) | Runnymede Ringing | D. Johnson (DJ) |
| D. Fleck | Group (RRG) | J. Johnson |
| J. Fleck (JFk) | Rye Meads Ringing | D. Jones (DJs) |
| P. Fletcher (PFr) | Group (RMRG) | P.E. Jones |
| J.Flynn (JFn) | Welsh Harp | C.R. Jupp |
| A. Fure | Conservation Group | |
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| P. Gann (PGn) | P. Hambrook (PH) | I. Kettle (IKe) |
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| J. Gaskell (JG) | D.M. Harris | B. Kiedrowski |
| P. Gasson (PGa) | G.J. Harris | W. Kilby |
| J. Gates (JGs) | M.A. Harris (MAHs) | P. Kilgour |
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| D. Gedge (DGe) | S. Harris (SH) | T. King |
| J.K. Gent | S.R. Harris | |
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| R.G. Gibbs | J. Hatton (JHa) | P. Lambert (PL) |
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| A. Gooderham (AGm) | J. Herbert (JH) | |

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- P. Mantle
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 M. McManus (MM)
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 G.D. Messenbird
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 I. Miller (IMr)
 D. Millington (DMi)
 B. Mist (BM)
 D. Mitchell (DMI)
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 A. Oakshett
 B. O'Dowd (BOD)
 W.E. Oddie
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 K.C. Osborne
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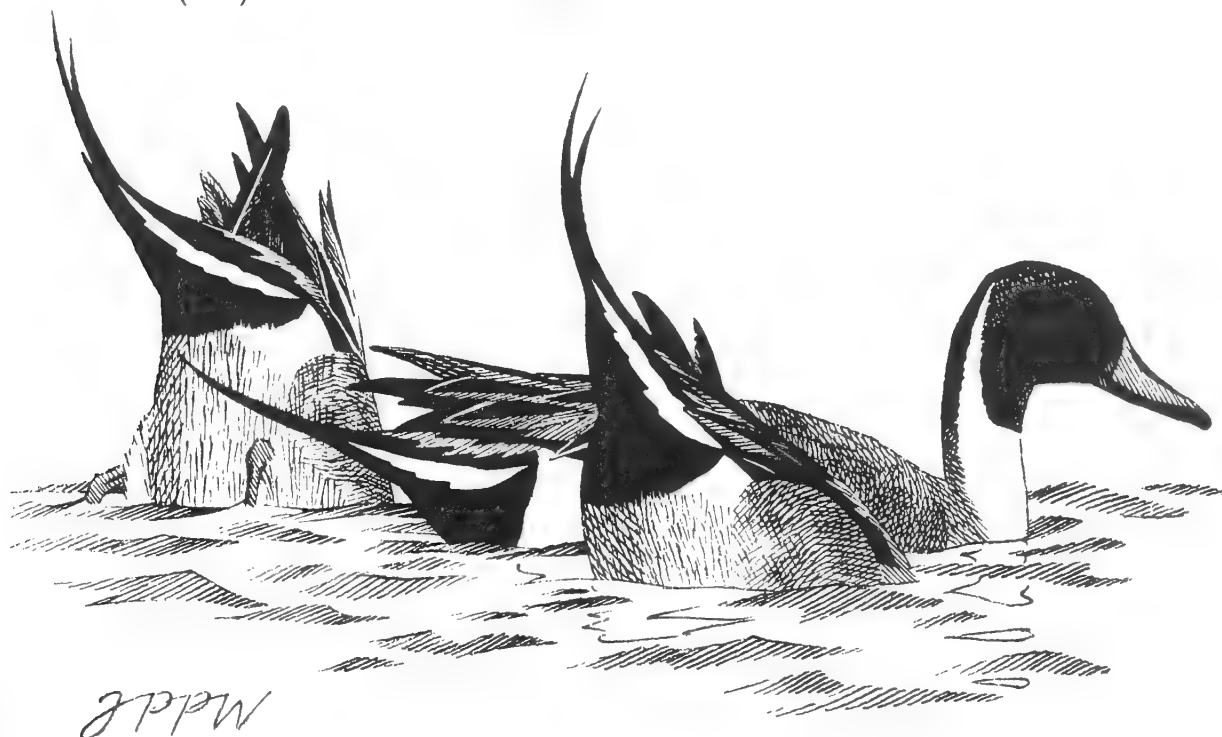
 J. Palmer (JPr)
 K. Palmer (KP)
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 R. Patterson
 S. Pearce
 A. Pearson (AP)
 K. Pepper (KPr)
 P. Peretti
 G. Perkin (GP)
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 J. Quail
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 Bedford Country Park
 Rangers (BCPR)
 Lea Valley Country Park
 Rangers (LVPR)
 D. Rear
 B. Reed
 Alexandra Park Bird
 Report
- Beddington Bird
 Report (BBR)
 Bookham Common
 Report (BCR)
 Hilfield Park Res Bird
 Report (HPBR)
 King George V Bird
 Report (KGBR)
 Sevenoaks Wildfowl
 Reserve (SWR)
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 M.S. Riddler
 J. Ridge
 T. Robertson
 C. Robinson
 S.H. Robson
 J.E. Rose
 P.A. Rowse
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 P. Sandford (PSd)
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 M.A. Scott
 A.S.M. Self
 P. Sellar (PSr)
 P. Sellers (PSs)
 N.P. Senior
 B. Sharp (BS)
 D.G. Sharpe
 M. Shaw (MSw)
 E.M. Sheen
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 P. Sims (PSi)
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 Essex Birdwatching
 Society (EBS)

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| Ruislip and District Nat. Hist. Society (RDNHS) | A. Tomczyński (AT) | R.D. Weller |
| Surbiton and District Birdwatching Society | M. Trier (MT) | D. Wells (DWs) |
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| | G.G. Watkins | J. Zadeh |



Birds of the London Area, 1998

with Additions and Corrections for previous years

A REPORT ON BIRD LIFE WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The classification of species in the systematic list of this report is that adopted by K.H.Voous in his List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species. Sequence and nomenclature follow the *Birdwatch* Checklist of the Birds of the Western Palearctic, 2000 and the relevant EURING number appears beside each species and sub-species heading.

The six counties within the London Area are signified in the report as follows: Essex, Herts = Hertfordshire, Middx = Middlesex, Bucks = Buckinghamshire, Kent and Surrey. Inner London records are normally listed under the respective counties (Middlesex, Kent or Surrey) but may occasionally be abbreviated to IL. North, South, East and West are abbreviated to N,S,E and W. Other abbreviations are:

CBC	=	Common Birds Census	PS	=	Power Station
CP	=	Country Park	Res	=	Reservoir (s)
GC	=	Golf Course	RG	=	Ringing Group
GP	=	Gravel Pit(s)	SF	=	Sewage Farm/Works
<i>LBR</i>	=	<i>London Bird Report</i>	SP	=	Sand Pit
LNR	=	Local Nature Reserve	NR	=	Nature Reserve
Meads	=	Meadows	WCB	=	Watercress Beds
OS	=	Open Space			

Observers' initials in the report are shown against principal records. A full list of observers appears on pages 21 to 24. The abbreviation 'mo' used for some records, indicates 'many observers'. Sightings of more than one bird (where they are assumed to have arrived together) are treated as one record. All running totals of rare or unusual birds that are provided in the systematic list can be assumed to refer only to the 20th century, unless specifically mentioned otherwise.

0002 Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*
 Status: rare winter visitor and migrant, there have been notable hard weather influxes.

Essex King George V Dock and Royal Victoria Dock, two to three birds present throughout January and on Feb 1st on Royal Docks complex (AJD, GH *et al*).

Surrey Island Barn Res, one early morning only on Mar 16th (DMH).

Probably no more than four birds occurred in the London Area this year, the lowest number since 1995. The Royal Docks are proving to be a regular site for this species, presumably from birds coming up the Thames.

0003 Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*
 Status: rare winter visitor and migrant, there have been notable hard weather influxes.

Essex King George V Res, a first-winter bird from Jan 14th to Feb 10th (PL *et al*). Wm Girling Res, one on Nov 21st (PJV).

Just two records this year compared to four in 1997, reflecting the milder winter weather.

0004 Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*
 Status: scarce winter visitor and occasional migrant, often after hard weather.

Essex King George V Res, one from Jan 6th to Apr 11th (SC, PJV *et al*).

Herts Hilfield Park Res, one from Nov 18th into 1999 (SM *et al*).

Middx Queen Mary Res, one from Jan 23rd to Mar 1st and again from May 2nd to 10th (CL *et al*).

Three birds seen this year, there were four in the previous two years.

Diver sp *Gavia sp*

Surrey Walton Res, one flew low heading SE at 08.44 on Oct 28th (DMH) was considered to be a Great Northern by the observer.

0006 Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*
 Status: very rare vagrant.

Surrey Tooting Common Lake, the over-wintering bird remained until Feb 12th (GDM *et al*).

The highlight of 1997 stayed on into 1998, but did not return for a third winter. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

0007 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Status: widespread breeding resident on most suitable waters, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

The number of breeding pairs reported in the past five years has been:

Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
No. of pairs	73	112	96+	95+	126+

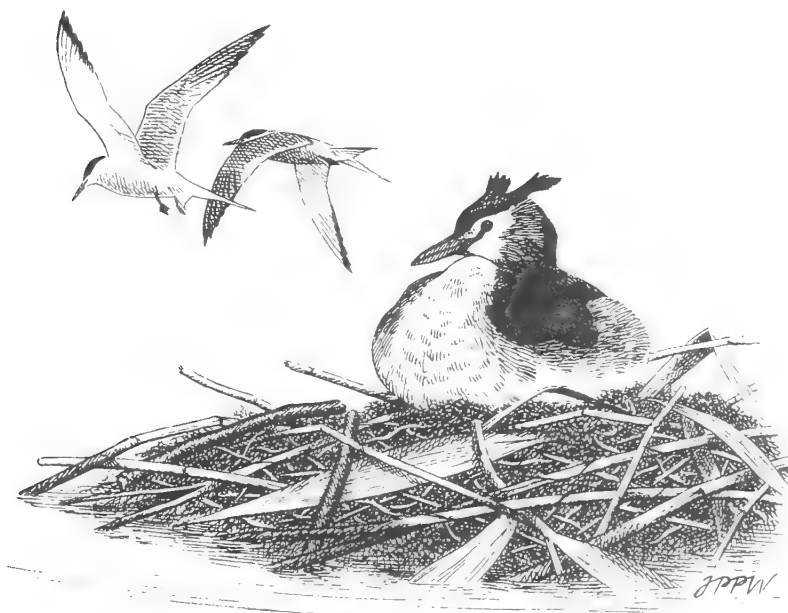
Localities holding breeding pairs (numbers of pairs or broods in brackets), the largest counts in each sector and Inner London records are given below:

- Essex Banbury Res (1). Belhus Woods CP (2-3). Berwick Ponds (3-4). Corbets Tey (2). Essex Filter Beds (1). Fairlop Lake (7). Purfleet Chalk Pits (4). Rainham GP (2). Rainham Marsh (17), a site record. South Hornchurch (2). The maximum count was 38 at Fishers Green on Jan 17th.
- Herts Amwell GP (2). Cheshunt GP (2). Coopers Green GP (2). Hilfield Park Res (12). Panshanger Park (1). Radlett (2). Rye Meads SF (14). Smug Oak Lane (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Watford Link Road (1). The maximum count was 32 at Hilfield Park Res on Sept 6th.
- Middx Brent Res (4). Hampton Court Park (1). Kempton Park (5). Lower Feltham (3). Parkside Farm/Res (1). Perry Oaks SF (1). Ruislip Lido (1). The Causeway NR (1). Yiewsley Lake (1). The maximum count was 19 at Broadwater on Oct 18th and at Stain Hill Res on Aug 9th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, singles on Sept 22nd and Oct 1st. St James's Park, one on Oct 7th.
- Bucks Alderbourne WCB (2). Chalfont Park (3). Hollybush Lane (1). Tilehouse South Lake (1). The maximum count was 31 at Wraysbury GPs on Dec 6th.
- Kent Crossness (3). Stone Marsh (2). Swanscombe Marsh (2). The maximum count was 16 at Ruxley GP on Oct 25th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT (1). Beddington SF (1). Bookham Common (1). Esher Common (1). Holmethorpe SP (4). Limpsfield (1). Lonsdale Road Res (3-4). Ravensbury Park (1). Trevereux/Swaynesland (1). Waddon Ponds (2). Walton Res (1-2). The maximum count was 24 at Barn Elms WWT in October.

0009 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

There were 146 nesting birds or broods reported this year compared with 155 in 1997. All records of pairs or broods are given below:



- Essex Belhus Woods CP (2). Berwick Ponds (2). Fairlop Lake (2-3). Fishers Green (6) Hackney Marsh (1). Hainault Forest (2). Hooks Marsh (1). Rainham GP (1). South Hornchurch (1). Turnford Marsh GP (1). Walthamstow Res (11). Weald Park (4).
- Herts Aldenham Res (3). Amwell GP (3). Bowyer's GP (2). Cheshunt GP (11). Hilfield Park Res (4). Pynesfield North Lake (2). Pynesfield South Lake (2). Radlett (1). Rye Meads SF (3). Sleapshyde GP (1). Troy Mill Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (6). Verulamium Lake (1).
- Middx Brent Res (4). Broadwater (1). Cannons Park (1). Denham Quarry Lake (1). Frays Lake (3). Grovelands Park (2). Hampstead Heath (3). Kempton Park (1). Korda Lake (1). Lower Feltham (2). Ruislip Lido (2). Wood Green Res (1). *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace (1). Hyde Park (3). Regent's Park (3).
- Bucks Farlows Lake (1). Old Slade Lakes (4). Thorney CP (1). Woodlands Park Lakes (1). Yiewsley Lake (1)
- Kent Brooklands Lakes (1). Chipstead Lake (1). Crystal Palace Lake (1). Danson Park (4). Ruxley GP (4).
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT (4). Chertsey Meads (1). Epsom Common (1). Feltham Piscatorial GP (1). Gatton Park/Lake (4). Godstone (2-3). Holmethorpe SP (2). River Ember (2). River Thames (Molesey) (1). River Wandle (2). South Norwood Lake (1). Twynersh Fishing Complex (1). *Inner London*: Battersea Park (4).

The table below shows peak autumn/winter counts at sites where numbers exceeded 100 on at least one occasion. No regular counts were received from Queen Mary Res (Middx) this year, which usually has the highest numbers in the London area.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Walthamstow Res	68	55	57	67	89	100	91	61
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	108	107	73	92	108	87	-	116
Surrey	QE II Res	57	47	31	150	163	65	22	60

0010 Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant,

Essex King George V Res, two present from Jan 1st to Mar 31st, one remaining until June 5th; a juvenile from Aug 10th to 12th; two on Aug 21st to 26th with one remaining until Dec 28th; a second bird present from Dec 1st to 28th (mo). Walthamstow Res, one on Jan 11th (SRH). Wm Girling Res, one from June 19th to Aug 9th; two on Aug 16th then moved to King George V; one on Nov 21st (PJV).

Middx Brent Res, a juvenile from Aug 28th to Sept 3rd (JPC *et al*).

Kent Chipstead Lake, one from Feb 21st to Mar 20th, one on Dec 3rd (TRS).

Surrey Godstone, a juvenile at Bay Pond on Aug 5th (KBd). Queen Elizabeth II Res, an adult from Sept 3rd to 6th (DMH).

At least 11 birds seen this year, well down on last year's 19. The only influx was in August when three juveniles arrived, which is very unusual.

1997 Additional Record

Middx Staines Res, three on Mar 6th (LGRE).

0011 Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, traditionally less frequent than the next species.

Essex Walthamstow Res, one from Oct 4th to 17th (RAB *et al*). Wm Girling Res, one on Dec 4th (RMC).

Herts Stocker's Lake, one from Dec 5th to 6th (AVM).

Middx King George VI Res, singles on Mar 28th and Oct 4th (CL, PN). Staines Res, one on Oct 4th and two on the 6th (PN, KLP).

Bucks Wraybury GP, one on Dec 7th (RRG).

Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Oct 3rd (DMH).

Just eight individuals recorded this year, compared with 24 in 1997 and 58 in 1996. This was the lowest number since 1989.

0012 Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Status: passage migrant and occasional breeder.

Essex Banbury Res, one from Nov 15th to 21st (DL, PL). Buckhurst Hill GP, one from Mar 5th to 14th (AAB). Fairlop Lake, one on Mar 1st was then seen at Buckhurst Hill (AAB). King George V Res, one on Apr 8th; one on Aug 10th; two on Sept 10th; one on Nov 18th; two on Dec 2nd; one on Dec 4th (mo). Wm Girling Res, one on Jan 6th; spring passage of seven birds from Mar 17th to Apr 7th with a peak of six from Mar 21st to 29th. In autumn, one from July 18th, then two from 26th into August increasing to seven on Aug 14th; up to 11 in September; a peak of 13 on Oct 2nd; 11

on Nov 1st then numbers declined to two by Nov 25th; four on Dec 4th, then one from Dec 5th to 19th (PJV *et al*).

- Herts Amwell GP, one on Sept 14th (BR). Hilfield Park Res, a pair present from May 24th and raised four young, a different juvenile on Sept 3rd (GSE, SMy, HPBR). Rye Meads SF, one on Sept 19th (RMRG).
- Middx Brent Res, three on May 10th (RB, LAB, JPC); one from Aug 14th to Sept 9th (AGV); two on Sept 5th (JPC); one on Sept 19th (ASMS); one on Nov 22nd (BP). Bushy Park, two on Nov 9th (PTe *per* MBe). King George VI Res, one on July 25th (PN). Staines Res, one from Feb 12th to 22nd; two on 23rd; three on 27th and five on 28th; three to five from Mar 1st to 8th; one on July 22nd and 23rd; one reported regularly from Aug 2nd to Sept 28th (mo).
- Bucks Horton GP, one on Apr 21st and 22nd (CDRH). Queen Mother Res, one on Mar 30th; two on Apr 2nd and 9th; one on Aug 8th; one on Sept 1st; one on Oct 7th (JAS).
- Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Feb 2nd; one from Apr 17th to 24th; two on 25th (DMH, SJS). Queen Elizabeth II Res, eight on Apr 1st, one from Apr 21st to 24th (DMH, SJS). Thorpe Water Park, one on Jan 4th; one on Jan 18th; one on Feb 15th (AVM, SJS, NSRG). Walton Res, one on Mar 18th (DMH, NJM).

Unlike the previous two species, this grebe was commoner in London than last year. As well as increasing in actual numbers at the two main sites (Staines Res and King George V Res - where a record 13 were seen on Oct 2nd), Black-necked Grebes are now being found at more sites, 18 this year compared with nine just five years ago. The dispersal of the breeding birds at Hilfield Park Res may have something to do with this.

0020 Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*
Status: rare visitor

1996/1997 Correction

- Surrey Banstead, taken into care in Epsom in December and released at Beachy Head on 30th Sept 1997. Birds reported in the 1996 and 1997 refer to the same individual. This is the 28th record for the London area.

0046 Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*
Status: rare visitor, usually in autumn.

- Essex Romford, one picked up exhausted in High Street on Sept 11th. This bird was rehabilitated at the Abberton rescue centre before being released at East Mersea. (AG).
- Surrey South Croydon, one taken into care at Beddington Wildlife Hospital on Sept 1st (PA). Walton Res, one from July 30th to Aug 2nd (SJS).

The 51st to 53rd records for London. There were two typical records of birds taken into care and one unusual one of a bird spending several days on a Surrey reservoir recalling the one in 1991 at Barn Elms.

0055 Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*
Status: rare visitor, often during 'wreck' conditions.

Middx Brent Res, one on Jan 2nd (JPC).

This individual arrived in very strong NW winds with torrential rain and stayed for just 13 minutes before flying off high SE.

0071 Gannet *Morus bassana*
Status: scarce visitor.

Surrey Beddington SF, an immature flew west at 09.50 on Oct 5th and circled over Carshalton and Sutton (PA).

The 57th record for London and the second in three years over Beddington. The two seen in 1997 were also seen in October.

0072 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Status: breeding resident, common elsewhere especially in winter.

Breeding numbers again increased at the main site in London at Walthamstow Res (Essex), to 208 nests (196 in 1997). At Broadwater (Middx), there were six occupied nests, the same as in 1997.

Sites with a count of over 200 are shown below in table form (those from QE II Res are roost counts) and are followed by peak counts from other sites with a summary of Inner London records.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Walthamstow Res	193	207	389	296	163	235	201
Surrey	QE II Res	452	415	320	570	487	430	430
	Walton Res	50	199	130	257	187	130	129

Essex Banbury Res, 149 on Aug 31st. Beckton, 127 on Sept 5th.

Herts Hilfield Park Res, 70 in October.

Middx Broadwater, 172 on Mar 15th. Staines Res, 560 on Sept 17th. Tottenham Marsh, 168 flew N on Sept 21st. *Inner London*: reported from several sites with a maximum of 15 at Regent's Park on Dec 7th.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, 600 on Oct 15th.

Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, 43 on Dec 12th.

Surrey Island Barn Res, 163 on Oct 4th. *Inner London*: reported from several sites, with a maximum of 39 roosting at high tide at Surrey Docks on Dec 17th.

0080 Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Status: irregular visitor, occasionally in good numbers. Usually occurs in winter, but may stay for long periods.

- Essex King George V Dock, one on Dec 12th (RK). King George V Res, two on Nov 18th (GJ), one on Dec 13th (SRH), one on Dec 30th (SC). Nazeing GP, two immatures from Nov 15th to Dec 26th (IK *et al*). Rainham Marsh, one on Jan 11th and 17th, one on Dec 28th (MKD). Royal Albert Docks, one from Nov 29th into 1999 (AJD *et al*). Wm Girling Res, one from Sept 10th to 17th with two on Sept 14th (SC,AM *et al*).
- Herts Bury Lake, one on Nov 6th (JMS). Rye Meads, one on Nov 7th (RMRG). Rye Meads SF, one ringed on Nov 7th (RMRG). Sleafshyde GP, two from Apr 21st to 26th, with one until 30th (LM *et al*).
- Middx Staines Res, one on Apr 18th (PN).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one from Feb 25th to Mar 2nd (JAS).
- Kent Woolwich, one on River Thames on Dec 5th (AJD).
- Surrey Wandsworth, one on River Thames on Oct 17th (RJA).

About 20 birds were seen this year, up on the 13 recorded in 1997.

0095 Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Status: scarce winter visitor that has become more regular in recent years, often returning to favoured sites.

- Herts Amwell GP, one on Feb 8th; one from Aug 17th to 24th; two from Nov 28th; into 1999 (MI *et al*). Cheshunt GP, singles on Jan 24th, Feb 1st, 15th and 22nd, and another on Dec 6th and 10th (mo). Rye Meads SF, one on Jan 17th, 18th and 24th; one on Nov 29th, Dec 2nd, 8th and 12th (RMRG,GJW).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Jan 26th (BCPR).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on Feb 8th and 14th (CLy).
- Surrey Epsom Common, one on Nov 19th (SJDG). South Norwood CP, one on Dec 14th (PP).

There were five birds in the first winter period, one in August and eight at the end of the year. This was down on last year and is a reflection of the much milder conditions in winter.

0104 Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Status: very rare vagrant.

- Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, one from Nov 7th to 15th (MC,CSK,CTr).

This was the ninth record for London, but amazingly the fourth one seen at Sevenoaks. The nine-day stay not only made it very popular, but also made it the longest staying Night Heron in London. The last one in London

was at Brent Res in 1994. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

0111 Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Status: very rare vagrant.

Essex Wanstead Park, one on May 10th (RV).

The second record for London after the memorable flock of eight in the Stocker's Lake area in May 1992. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

0119 Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Status: scarce but increasing visitor.

Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Aug 29th (VH). Rainham Marsh, one on Aveley Floods on May 28th (AH), one on Aug 12th (BOD).

Middx Brent Res, one on Feb 17th (JPC). Kempton Park Res, one on Aug 3rd and 4th (CT). Yeading Brook Meadows, one from Dec 1st to 4th and again on 20th (JF,PN).

Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, two on Aug 29th (MC). Swanscombe Marsh, one from May 8th to 11th; two on June 6th and 7th (BEW *et al*).

Surrey Barn Elms WWT, two on June 4th (SPn,NPS); one on Aug 4th (ASn); one on Aug 10th and 11th (EB).

Twelve records of 15 birds this year brings the London total up to 45 records (there were seven records not eight as reported in last year's London Bird Report). The increase continues and it is good to see that there were several occurrences of two birds together. At least three sites recorded this species for the first time this year.

0122 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Status: common breeding resident.

There were 406 nests this year, up on last year's 340. It was good to see a new breeding site, especially in Inner London - at Corporation Island, which suggests that Grey Herons are increasing their numbers in the London area. All breeding records and large counts away from breeding sites are given. Figures in brackets are occupied nests in 1997.

Essex Fishers Green, one nesting attempt. Waltham Abbey, 18 occupied nests (25). Walthamstow Res, 126 occupied nests (102).

Herts Amwell, 1-2 pairs nested (1). Stocker's Lake, 49 occupied nests (54). Verulamium Lake, 8 pairs reared 19+ young (6).

- Middx Brentford Ait 23 nests (23). Broadwater, 25 occupied nests (22). Kempton Park Reservoir 72 nests (60). Osterley Park, five occupied nests (8). Syon Park, two occupied nests (3). Yiewsley Lake, 16 occupied nests (14). *Inner London*: Regent's Park, 25 occupied nests (25).
- Bucks Horton GP, 3-4 pairs nested.
- Kent Crossness/Thamesmead 13 occupied nests (9). Kelsey Park, 12 occupied nests (7). Swanscombe Marsh, at least two occupied nests, 12 juveniles on May 19th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, 34 on Aug 27th. Beddington SF, 25 on Nov 7th. Bookham Common, 20 occupied nests (20). Brentford Ait, 23 nests (23). Epsom Common, one nesting attempt. Gatton Lake, 24 occupied nests (22). Lonsdale Road Res, one nesting attempt. Morden Hall Park, pair went through courtship behaviour and gathering of sticks in December. Richmond Park 25 nests (15). *Inner London*: Battersea Park, 32 occupied nests (32). Corporation Island, 6 nests (new site).

0144 Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
 Status: very rare migrant.

Essex Walthamstow Res, one appeared after a thunderstorm on June 28th but disappeared shortly afterwards (PL).

The 24th record for London and fairly typically just a short stayer.

0152 Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*
 Status: common breeding resident.

The number of breeding pairs for each county is given in the following table.

Essex	Herts	Middx	Inner London	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	Total
18	23	17	7	6	10	20	96

The breeding population has declined to 101 this year from 111 in 1997, but was still higher than between 1993-1996. The slow increase in breeding population may be influenced mainly by the availability of suitable secluded breeding habitat. Please continue to submit all breeding records of this species so that we can monitor the situation. The largest counts are given under the respective counties below.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, 68 in March. Eagle Pond, 86 in June. Fishers Green, 46 in May. King George V Res, 22 in October. Walthamstow Res, 86 in July.
- Herts Aldenham Res, 40 in June. Amwell GP, 18 in August. Bury Lake, 84 in February. Cheshunt GP, 24 in April. Grand Union Canal at Harefield, 30-



- 40 in March and April. Hilfield Park Res, 19 on Oct 3rd. Rye Meads, 30 on June 7th. Tyttenhanger GP, 36 on Jan 10th. Verulamium Lake, 30 in March. Middx Broadwater, 58 in August. Bushy Park, 80 in February. *Inner London:* Kensington Gardens, 69 in October.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 124 in September.
- Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, 14 in August.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, 35 in April. Between Hampton Court and Walton Bridges, 122 in Feb. Island Barn Res, 30 in July/August. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 26 in June. Thorpe Water Park, 49 in October. Walton Res, 58 in July.

0154 Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

Status: rare winter visitor.

- Middx King George VI Res, one adult on Dec 5th (CL).

This is a less than annual visitor with 1996 being the last blank year.

0153 Bewick's Swan

Cygnus columbianus

Status: scarce migrant, usually in autumn, and winter visitor.

- Herts St Albans, seven over Burston Garden Centre on Nov 27th (IB).

After 12 records in 1997, this sole record is disappointing.

Bewick's/Whooper Swan

Cygnus sp

- Middx The Causeway NR, two flew N on Nov 1st (DGH).

0158 Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Status: very rare winter visitor

Kent Charlton, two skeins of 15 and 45 birds on Jan 2nd (DM).

0159 White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers. Often difficult to be certain whether individual birds are wild or of captive origin.

Herts Park Street GP, ten - two family groups - were first seen on Dec 3rd flying in from the E before landing, they remained here into 1999.

Middx Tottenham, heard calling flying NE on Feb 24th at 22.30 (PL).

Kent Dartford Marsh, 137 flew NW at 12.50 on Jan 6th (BEW).

Surrey Beddington, two flew SW on Dec 12th (pink-billed, so probably *A.a.albifrons*) (JPA,GDM). Queen Elizabeth II Res, one flew N on Dec 6th (NL,TJL).**Wild Goose sp** *Anser sp*

Herts Amwell GP, nine flew N at 07.35 on Feb 7th, possibly Bean Geese (BR).

Middx Bedford Lakes CP, 56 on Jan 2nd, (BCPR). Staines Res, 18 flew NE on Jan 15th, (DJM).

The Bedford Lakes record almost certainly involved the Pink-footed Geese flying over Charlton.

0161 Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Status: common feral breeding resident, controlled.

Breeding records (with numbers of pairs or broods in parentheses) and largest counts in each county are listed below. As in previous years, Sevenoaks Reserve held the largest numbers, with up to 389 birds.

Essex Belhus Woods CP (3-4), 40 on Feb 8th. Hall Marsh (1). Hornchurch CP (2-3). South Ockendon, 81 on Dec 28th. Rainham Marsh, one pair. Waltham Marsh, 26 on July 8th. Walthamstow Res, 66 in October.

Herts Amwell GP, nine on July 31st, Aug 31st and Sept 24th. Cheshunt GP (4). Lynsters Farm, 40 on Nov 12th. Rye Meads, nine on Aug 31st. Stocker's Lake, 33 on Sept 28th. Verulamium Lake (1).

Middx Bedford Lakes CP, six on March 27th. Broadwater, 31 on Dec 5th. Wood Green Res, four on May 3rd. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, 37 in February. Burgess Park, 20 on Jan 26th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens (no nests this year), 137 on Aug 12th. Regents Park (1 controlled, 2

bred), 33 in February. St. James's Park, 125 on Sept 7th. Victoria Park, 84 in December.

- Bucks Horton GP, two on April 4th. Wraysbury GP, up to four, seen in all months except November.
- Kent Ruxley GP, 50 on Aug 25th. Sevenoaks Reserve, maximum of 389 in September.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, nine in October. Bourne Hall, Ewell (1). Claremont Lake (4), 24 on July 11th. Court Lane, Ewell (1). Holmethorpe SP (4), 34 on Dec 23rd. Island Barn Res, ten on Mar 17th. Richmond Park, 12 on Feb 15th. Trevereux/Swaynesland, 45 on Jan 5th.

0166 Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Status: very common breeding resident; controlled.

As part of the ongoing programme to control numbers, many eggs were pricked, particularly at Inner London sites. This seems to be having the desired effect at the sites chosen in the Royal Parks and Hampstead Heath where few young were hatched. Localities with five or more broods or breeding pairs (numbers in parentheses) selected large counts and notable Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Beckton Park (7). Belhus Woods CP (5-6). Cornmill Meads, 120 in August. Eagle Pond, 137 in October. Fairlop Lake/Plain, 120 in February. Fishers Green, 122 in April. Hainault Forest (5-6), 100 in March. Nazeing GP, 40 in January. Rainham SW (5). South Hornchurch (5). Walthamstow Res (35), 653 in July.
- Herts Amwell GP, 158 in June. Park Street GP (9-10). Rye Meads, 126 in January. Rye Meads SF (8). Smug Oak Lane, 111 in November. Verulamium Lake, 177 in September.
- Middx Alexandra Park, 144 in January. Brent Res, 177 in July. Bushy Park, 67 in January. Hampton Court Park, 270 in November. Home Farm, Harmondsworth, 120 in September. Kempton Park, 145 in November. Staines Res, 620 in August. Tottenham Cemetery, 28 ads + 16 juvs in June. Wood Green Res (5, 4 successful), 118 in October. *Inner London:* Grand Union Canal (Little Venice to Westbourne Green), 98 in November. Hyde Park (12 nests, 74 eggs pricked under licence), Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, max. 168 in August. Regent's Park, 202 in June. St. James's Park (4 nests, 19 eggs pricked), 49 in August. Surrey Docks, 24 on Sept 2nd. Victoria Park, 110 including one leucistic individual on June 17th, 140 in September.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 103 in February, 108 in September.
- Kent Blackheath, 45 on Oct 1st. Danson Park, 132 in December. Dartford Marsh, 25 in October. Greenwich Park, 70 in September. Orpington, 100+ in September. Ruxley GP (5, 3 broods survived), 70 in October. Sevenoaks Reserve, up to 189 in September.
- Surrey Apps Court Farm GP, 151 in August. Barn Elms WWT, 220 in October. Beddington SF, 177 in August. Epsom Common, 250 in August and

September. Holmethorpe SP (7), 65 in December. Lonsdale Road Res (2 broods, successful for first time in years, since Mute Swans usually kill the young, (NA,JGn). Morden Hall Park (8). River Thames at Barnes, 119 in September. Walton Res, 160 in August.

0168 Brent Goose***Branta bernicla***

Status: formerly scarce migrant and winter visitor, greatly increased in recent years.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 49 flew W at 12.00 on Oct 3rd (AJD). Rainham Marsh, four flew high down river at 17.05 on Oct 6th (SC), two on Oct 11th (DC), and one on floods on Oct 15th (SRP).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Dec 3rd (GSE,SHM).
- Middx Staines Res, one flew S on Feb 8th (NL,TJL), 17 on Dec 1st (KLP).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Feb 20th, 15 on Dec 1st, one from Dec 16 to 17th and two from 18th to 23rd on adjacent fields (JAS,CDRH).
- Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, one, possibly an escape on Mar 1st (MC). Swanscombe Marsh, one on Jan 24th (PB).
- Surrey Beddington SF, a flock of c60 flew SSW on Oct 3rd (BBR), one of pale-bellied form *B.b.hrota* flew E over lake at 08.35 on Feb 7th (RDW,KIM). Queen Elizabeth II Res, one flew high to E at 05.16 on June 5th (DMH).

0170 Egyptian Goose***Alopechen aegyptiacus***

Status: uncommon feral breeding resident.

One pair again nested at Amwell GP. All records are given, but summarised for the main localities.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, two on Mar 17th. Hornchurch CP, two on July 24th. Nazeing GP, one on Jan 14th. South Hornchurch, a pair at Harrow Lodge Park on July 24th. Walthamstow Filter Beds, one on Mar 5th. Walthamstow Res, one on Feb 20th, Mar 20th-21st and 29th, Apr 5th and 12th.
- Herts Amwell GP, a pair present all year hatched one brood on Apr 1st plus 2-3 further nesting attempts. Stocker's Lake, one on Mar 26th.
- Middx Broadwater, four on Sept 11th. Bushy Park, a pair between Apr 3rd and Aug 11th, two on Dec 8th, 24th, 28th & 30th, four from 12 to 13th and on 18th. Hampton Court Park, two on Mar 16th, May 16th & 19th, Aug 13th, Nov 18-30th, four on Dec 5th. Kempton Park Res, one on Aug 5th. Staines Res, one on Aug 28th. Tottenham Marsh, one on Mar 18th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one from Apr 24th to the end of the year was the first site record of this species. Victoria Park, one on Apr 10th.
- Kent Foots Cray Meadows, one on Dec 6th, 12th and 20th.
- Surrey Egham, five flew in to the swan sanctuary on Mar 8th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Apr 13th. Island Barn Res, ten on Jan 25th, two on Apr 19th. Oxted, Townland Pond, two on Jan 9th, four intermittently from Jan 28th to Feb 27th, seven on Oct 7th and six on Nov 20th. Richmond Park, Pen

Ponds, four on Nov 16th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, eight flew S on Jan 1st, one on Jan 2nd, 12 on 10th, one on 17th and six on 31st; two on May 12th, one on 27th, nine on Sept 15th, one on 20th. Thorpe Water Park, six on Feb 15th, three on Mar 15th and two on Dec 6th. Walton Res, nine on Aug 18th and 11 on Sep 4th, and one to seven on several dates from late August to Oct 13th, two on Dec 24th.

0173 Shelduck***Tadorna tadorna***

Status: decreasing breeding resident on Lower Thames, regular visitor to major inland waters where it breeds in small numbers.

There is concern that loss of habitat on the Lower Thames is affecting breeding success, and that inland breeding prospects are better. Continued monitoring is needed. Breeding records (with number of pairs or broods in parentheses) and highest counts at each site are given below.

Essex Banbury Res, two on May 10th. Barking Bay/Marsh (2). Beckton (4), 118 in July. Belhus Woods CP, 11 on May 6th, two pairs summered. Berwick Pond, one pair summered. Cornmill Meads, up to three between February and May. Fishers Green (1). Hall Marsh (1). North Woolwich, 53 on Dec 8th. Purfleet, 17 on Oct 29th. Rainham GP, two pairs summered. Rainham Marsh (45), six plus broods. Silvertown (3). West Thurrock, 51 on March 1st. Wm Girling Res (2).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barking Bay	-	112	-	-	-	50	56	40	170	252	188	84
Rainham	130	175	110	75	96	100	-	-	36	47	50	35

Herts Amwell GP (1), brood of seven on May 1st. Rye Meads SF (2), up to six from January to May.

Middx Charlton GP, seven on Feb 6th. Hampton Court Park, eight on Dec 15th. Perry Oaks SF (1). Wraysbury Res (2). Yiewsley Lake, two pairs.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Perry Oaks SF	16	-	22	21	48	16	7	3	-	-	-	-
Queen Mary Res	1	8	11	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staines Res	2	15	8	17	7	10	-	1	1	2	23	33
KG VI Res	8	11	6	13	16	17	11	2	5	-	1	-

Bucks Langley Park (1), nest abandoned. Yiewsley Lake, four on Apr 8th, one pair from Apr 29th to June 8th.

Kent Crossness, 21 on May 22nd. Dartford Marsh, 31 in January. Swanscombe Marsh, 46 on Jan 11th. Thames Barrier area, 31 in January, 51 in November, 142 in December. Woolwich, R. Thames, 16 on Nov 20th.

Surrey Beddington SW, maximum of 10 in April. Queen Elizabeth II Res, max of 8 in March. Walton Res, 27 in February.

Inner London: Buckingham Palace, one or two feral birds between February & June, considered to be from St James's Park. Regent's Park, one on Apr 28th, one juvenile flew W on Aug 20th. St James's Park, captive stock are free-flying, including some of this year's young. Surrey Docks, four flew high to W on Apr 24th.

0178 Mandarin***Aix galericulata***

Status: established, locally common, feral breeding resident.

Widespread throughout the area, except in Kent. Connaught Water had almost twice as many birds than last year in November, and Grovelands Park held twice as many in January, but only a quarter as many in December. All breeding records are given below (number of pairs or broods in parentheses), together with maximum counts at other sites. Please continue to submit all records to assist ongoing monitoring of this species.

- Essex Berwick Ponds, one on Sept 4th. Warren Pond, Chingford Plain, one pair on May 9th, two pairs on Sept 11th. Connaught Water (12), 90 in October, 101 in November. Cornmill Meads (1). Dagenham Chase, one on Sept 5th. Epping Forest, two at Strawberry Hill Pond on Jan 6th, Mar 9th and Apr 9th, two pairs at Lost Pond on Jan 13th, one pair at Staples Hill on May 5th. Fishers Green (1). Harrow Lodge Farm, one on Oct 30th. Walthamstow Res, one on Nov 7th. Weald Park, two pairs on Mar 7th.
- Herts Amwell GP, a male on Jan 3rd and Dec 17th. Hilfield Park Res, two males on May 31st. Panshanger Park, three on Feb 24th. Stocker's Lake, a pair on July 7th.
- Middx Bentley Priory, up to seven in January. Bushy Park (1-2), up to 29 in September. Grovelands Park (3), up to 40 in January and February, 22 in December. Hampstead Heath, up to two in March and from August to October. Hampton Court Park, two on May 23rd. Headstone, 6-7 in October to December. Osterley Park, 20+ young on May 29th. Pinner Hill Farm, one in January to May, up to seven from October to December. Syon Park (2). Trent Park (1), up to 18 in October. Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, up to 23 in December. *Inner London:* Regent's Park, pair from Apr 1st to 26th, one female on Sept 30th; one fully winged pair (not part of the collection) failed to rear any young. St James's Park, several free flying, including some young of this year.
- Bucks Wraybury GP, 13 on Jan 17th, 12 on Oct 20th, ten on Dec 3rd.
- Kent Crayford, a male on R. Cray on Feb 1st. Foots Cray Meadows, a male on Mar 1st. Hall Place Gardens, a male in February, April and October. Sevenoaks Reserve, 1-2 in February and March, three in October and November.
- Surrey Ashted Common (1). Bookham Common, five pairs in March. Claremont Lake (1). Epsom Common (2), up to 11 in December. Esher (2). Gatton Park/Lake, up to eight in October. Godstone, 1-2 in May, June, August, September and November. Hershaw, two flew over on March 25th. Horton

CP, a pair on March 22nd. Isabella Place, eight free-flying in Jan. Kew Gardens, up to 33 in November. Lambeth Res, one on Aug 6th. Lonsdale Road Res, female on Sept 29th. Nower Wood, one on June 1st. Princes Coverts, 12 on Feb 15th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, a female on Aug 29th. Richmond Park (2). River Mole (1). River Thames, Sunbury Lock (2). River Ember (1). Thorpe Water Park, one on Oct 11th. West End Common (2). Wimbledon Common, several pairs from March to June, but no proof of breeding.

0179 Wigeon***Anas penelope***

Status: common winter visitor, with occasional summer records.

There were approximately 2,400 birds in the area in January and 1,800 in December. Monthly winter maxima from the main localities are given in the table below, followed by a listing of isolated counts of 50 or more birds, as well as Inner London records.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Cornmill Meads	-	200+	200+	70	150	162
	Hall Marsh	128	-	33	1	-	-
	Rainham Marsh	100	100	158	110	140	130
Herts	Amwell GP	115	48	23	16	-	56
	Hilfield Park Res	84	91	22	18	36	35
	Rye Meads	-	50	57	-	-	-
Middx	Broadwater	230	325	109	58	132	164
	Kempton Park	480	420	220	110	176	294
	King George VI Res	389	6	13	160	382	149
	Staines Res	200	430	153	20	50	158
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	162	70	14	329	150	111
	Woodlands Park GP	106	132	130	-	77	70
Kent	Dartford Marsh	16	131	100	50	10	26
	Sevenoaks Reserve	31	50	-	3	14	20
Surrey	Richmond Park	-	-	-	55	48	68
	Thorpe Park	62	230	183	-	3	146
	Walton Res	420	492	77	88	28	195

Essex South Ockendon, 67 on Oct 26th.

Herts Bowyer's GP, up to 113 in October. Cheshunt GP, 158 on Jan 30th and 172 on Oct 9th.

Middx *Inner London*: Regent's Park, a pair on Jan 13th and 14th. St James's Park, several young were raised from captive stock and were not pinioned.

Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one male in early March.

0182 Gadwall***Anas strepera***

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

There were approximately 1,500 birds present in January and 1,900 in December. Proof of breeding came from seven sites, with eight pairs summering at four additional sites. At Rye Meads, 34 pairs hatched a

minimum of 210 young. Counts from some of the main sites are given in the table below, followed by details of breeding birds and the other notable isolated high counts from other sites, as well as Inner London records.

		<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Essex	Rainham Marsh	60	90	72	12	60	110	120
Herts	Amwell GP	58	52	28	44	49	16	17
	Rye Meads SF	44	116	161	-	-	-	-
	Stockers Lake	130	50	-	-	-	73	112
Middx	Brent Res	32	35	13	115	86	9	-
	Broadwater	56	102	-	100	86	128	280
	Kempton Pk Res	182	119	5	23	50	187	196
Bucks	Yiewsley Lake	44	6	12	66	60	40	40
	Wraysbury GP	571	626	223	102	32	431	481
Surrey	Island Barn Res	14	33	26	44	27	58	129
	Richmond Pk	-	-	-	4	29	44	78
	Thorpe Pk	88	102	2	81	12	38	161
	Walton Res	124	42	65	86	66	130	154
Kent	Ruxley GP	18	8	7	31	37	35	38

- Essex Belhus Wood CP, two pairs summered. Cornmill Meads, five pairs in May. Essex Filter Beds, 53 in October. Hall Marsh, one brood. Hornchurch CP, two pairs summered. King George V Res, 110 in November. Rainham GP, one pair summered. Rainham Marsh, three pairs, probably bred. Walthamstow Res, two pairs in May. Wm Girling Res, one brood.
- Herts Amwell GP, six broods. Bowyer's GP, 64 in October. Cheshunt GP, 184 in January, two broods. Rye Meads SF, 34 pairs hatched a minimum of 210 young.
- Middx Perry Oaks SF, one brood. Stain Hill Res, 65 in September. Stoke Newington Res, 54 on Jan 11th. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, up to four feral birds, probably from St James's Park, in April and May. Regent's Park, one pair in September, one male in October and a pair on Dec 8th. St James's Park, an unspecified number in the collection are free flying, including some young of the year.
- Bucks Thorney CP, 40 in January. Yiewsley Lake, one pair in May
- Kent Crossness, two pairs with broods, 92 in December. Sevenoaks Reserve, 29 in November.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, 34 in March. Beddington SF, 75 in December. Field Common GP, 64 in February.

0184 Teal

Anas crecca

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

In July, an unconfirmed report of a brood seen at Rainham Marsh may have indicated successful breeding. Elsewhere, there were reports from a further 18 sites at some point during the breeding season. Numbers at the beginning of the year were pretty normal with Beddington SF the only site to reach 500. During the breeding season 18 sites held birds at some point, though at only four of these were the birds described as summering.

In autumn, a steady arrival of small numbers in July gathered pace. At the end of the year, Staines Res provided strong totals and counts across the London Area have now exceeded a thousand birds at three separate sites since 1995.

Peak monthly counts from all principal localities are shown below in tabular form. Details of summer records and a probable breeding record are given in the text under the respective county heading along with the highest sector count if not listed in the table, as well as all Inner London records.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Barking Bay	135	-	136	-	14	415	79	77
	Beckton	200	280	-	-	-	433	512	-
	Berwick Ponds	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	100
	Connaught Water	-	10	14	-	-	-	-	150
	Cornmill Meads	-	61	84	-	70	193	-	140
	Dagenham Chase	67	47	40	20	20	-	-	61
	Essex Filter Beds	40	68	59	5	22	47	31	63
	Hall Marsh	24	-	30	14	17	-	-	-
	Hornchurch CP	-	-	-	11	-	200	-	-
	KG V Res	100	90	80	2	12	180	3	150
	Rainham Marsh	250	250	200	-	100	113	150	330
	Walthamstow Res	80	85	46	9	12	41	68	70
	Wm Girling Res	142	159	97	-	84	254	124	184
	Herts	Amwell GP	54	38	24	10	24	52	38
Rye Meads SF		58	70	60	16	-	75	-	-
Middx	King George VI Res	317	62	75	39	179	159	-	83
	Perry Oaks SF	-	-	-	-	-	220	400	-
Kent	Staines Res	111	28	8	-	58	50	1082	1197
	Crossness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	175
	Dartford Marsh	103	-	-	4	-	-	19	110
	Sevenoaks Reserve	84	68	29	3	53	60	82	78
Surrey	Thames Barrier	357	206	-	-	20	211	226	361
	Barn Elms WWT	247	232	146	56	84	110	112	255
	Beddington SF	500	250	200	65	265	500	400	500
	Hersham GP	-	103	19	-	-	70	24	150
	R. Thames (Putney)	4	46	-	-	-	-	-	274
	Walton Res	300	217	47	17	60	25	33	72

Essex Belhus Woods CP, one or two summered. Berwick Ponds, one or two summered. Cornmill Meads, one on June 4th. Hall Marsh, a pair on the Lea on June 5th. Hornchurch CP, one or two summered in the area. Rainham Marsh, two pairs summered and there was an unconfirmed report of one brood on July 2nd. Walthamstow Res, eight in May.

Herts Rye House Marsh, 21 on May 18th.

Middx Brent Res, six on July 7th. Kempton Park Res, two on May 8th and one on June 17th. Perry Oaks SF, four on June 21st. Stain Hill Res, one on June 14th. Staines Moor, three on June 20th. *Inner London*: Limehouse, one in May. Regents Park, a pair on Oct 7th.

Kent Deptford Creek, one on June 1st.

Surrey Barn Elms WWT, two in June and one in July. Beddington SF, two in May, up to nine in June and four in July. Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on June 18th. Walton Res, a pair was present throughout May though there were

no signs of breeding activity, five on June 5th and 30th, and 30 on July 31st.

1997 Additional record:

Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one male flew down-river on Jan 16th.

0184.01 Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

Status: rare vagrant

Surrey Beddington SF, a drake, which was first seen on 14 Dec 1997, relocated on Jan 17th and remained until Feb 8th (DAC).

After the prophetic warning in last year's report, this Nearctic equivalent of our own Teal has been awarded full species status.

0186 Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Status: very common and widespread breeding resident, with numbers increasing in winter.

Following recent appeals for observers to submit all records of this species, reports were received from a total of 123 sites over the year with breeding commented upon from about 47 of these. Ducklings, on the whole, seemed to have fared well with the only negative comment referring to brood mortality coming from Nunhead Cemetery where all failed to survive.

Observers are still asked to continue to supply details as fully as possible. The best count during the first winter-period was of 375 on the Thames between Putney and Barnes Bridges on Jan 18th. A count of 461 along the same stretch of river on Dec 6th was the best count at any one site for the year as a whole; otherwise no sector reported a peak count of more than 230 birds. All counts in excess of 300 birds or the highest sector count where this was lower, breeding concentrations of ten or more pairs, Inner London site maxima and a late breeding record, are given below.

Essex Connaught Water, 230 on Oct 24th was the highest count for the sector, Rainham Marsh, 70+ pairs bred. Walthamstow Res, 12 broods reported.

Herts Hilfield Park Res, 10 broods. Rye Meads SF, 35 broods hatched at least 272 young. Verulamium Lake, 313 on Jan 12th, 304 in September and 310 in November. Watford, town centre, a female with a juvenile on Dec 18th.

Middx Perry Oaks SF, 16 broods seen, some of which may have been second broods. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, 94 on Jan 14th, bred. Grand Union Canal (Little Venice to Westbourne Green), 37 on Nov 4th. Hyde Park, about 71 young hatched from 15 broods with a much later breeding

season reported this year. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 107 on July 16th; 14 on Aug 8th (on this date the site was experiencing water problems and fish were noted either dead or dying). Kensington High Street, one female was noted accompanied by ducklings on the Storehouse roof gardens on Jun 13th. Lambeth Bridge, 30 on Sept 10th. Limehouse, 11 in April, May and July. Primrose Hill, a group of 22 flew S on Nov 11th. Regents Canal (Islington), six in February. Regents Canal (St. John's Wood), a total of 67 on June 17th comprised 54 adults and 13 young from an unknown number of broods. Regents Park, ten pairs bred and 282 on Jan 14th was the highest count of the year. St James's Park, a female was seen accompanied by 16 new young on Nov 10th, 199 on Dec 16th, bred. Trafalgar Square, four were seen swimming around in the fountains on May 6th. Victoria Park, 97 on Sept 18th, bred. Victoria Tower Gardens, two pairs seen regularly from spring to mid-July.

Bucks Wraysbury GP, 192 on Sept 6th was the highest count for the sector.
 Kent Crossness, 120 in December was the highest count for the sector.
 Surrey The highest count was achieved along the Thames between Barnes and Putney Bridges on Dec 6th with 461. Breeding was reported from a total of about 17 sites, the most productive being 42 young from 11 broods at Barn Elms WWT. Holmethorpe SP, ten pairs bred. R. Wandle (Carshalton to Wandsworth), 76 territories. *Inner London*: Burgess Park, 13 on Jun 11th, bred. Folkestone Gardens, Deptford; three pairs bred. Kennington, up to 10 on the Thames between March and May. Peckham Pond, one pair bred and hatched a brood of nine young. Southwark Park, 39 on Feb 10th. Surrey Docks, 116 on Sept 2nd.

0189 Pintail

Anas acuta

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, very occasional summer records, declining.

Reported from a total of 20 sites this year, primarily from the Surrey sector. Peak counts were unremarkable with the highest number reported from Barn Elms WWT (17), although it is possible that some of these birds are of feral origin. Counts from the lower Thames were, once again, fairly minor, the best being four at Rainham Marsh in January. The majority of sites received fewer than two individuals with birds more widely reported during the first half of the year. It has become clear that a number of individuals of dubious origin are being regularly encountered on and around the Thames at Wandsworth, Barn Elms WWT and the Wandle/Thames confluence, and occasionally into the Inner London sector with, for example, up to four in the area between May and June; continued details of such birds in this area would be useful and at least some of the more obviously dubious of these are listed in Appendix 1. All records of two or more birds are given, although summarised for the main sites, along with all Inner London records.

Essex Rainham Marsh, three on Jan 20th; four on Jan 31st; two from Apr 12th to 19th, (a pair through early spring were occasionally noted displaying

in suitable habitat); two on Oct 15th and two on Dec 3rd and 4th. Wm. Girling Res, four on Nov 22nd. Walthamstow Res, a male on Feb 8th. Herts Hilfield Park Res, a pair on Jan 28th and a male on Nov 27th. Middx Broadwater, two on Nov 1st. Staines Res, five on Sept 10th. Bucks Reported from two sites. Surrey Barn Elms WWT, eight in February; four in March; two in April; and reports of a pair from May 11th to 15th with three present on May 28th; three in July; up to nine in August; 17 in September; 13 in October; 11 in November and 12 in December; some of these records at least may relate to feral birds. Beddington SF, two flew N on Mar 30th; two on May 6th and May 29th; three on June 6th; two on June 11th; five on June 13th; two on Jun 16th, July 27th and Aug 13th. Island Barn Res, a pair on Feb 22nd. R. Thames at Putney, nine on Aug 19th. R. Thames at Wandsworth, eight between September and December. R. Wandle (Bell Lane Creek), two on May 1st. Walton Res, a pair on Mar 15th and two on Dec 27th. *Inner London*: R. Thames at Millbank, a pair on Mar 16th and 19th may have been part of a feral group noted at other sites upriver.

0191 Garganey***Anas querquedula***

Status: scarce passage migrant, rare in winter, very occasional breeder.

In the first winter-period a male was reported from Amwell GP during January; no reports were received from here during February so a single male at this site on Mar 10th was the first spring migrant of the year. During the spring an additional seven sites reported birds up to June 14th with no more than three birds at any one site. For the first time this decade, breeding was confirmed, at Rainham Marsh with two young noted during July, an encouraging event, though breeding records from the London Area are traditionally extremely erratic. Autumn passage was, as is usual, a rather protracted affair, with the first bird turning up at Beddington SF on July 12th, thereafter at a further 13 sites up to Oct 17th. None were reported during the second winter-period. All records are given.

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, three on Sept 5th. Berwick Ponds, three on Aug 17th, 22nd and 23rd. Cornmill Meads, one on Aug 20th and 23rd. Hornchurch CP, two on Aug 17th. Rainham Marsh, one pair bred and were seen with a brood of two young in July, constituting the first confirmed breeding in our area during the 1990s, two on Aug 16th and one on Sept 12th. Herts Amwell GP, one on Jan 10th and 11th, one on Mar 10th and 13th, one between Mar 31st and Apr 4th, two on Aug 15th, 16th and 20th, two on Sept 7th and 8th, then one regularly between Sept 12th and Oct 17th was joined by a second bird between Sept 16th and 18th. Rye Meads SF, singles on Apr 11th, 24th, 29th and Sept 3rd. Middx Brent Res, two on Aug 19th, singles on Aug 20th, 24th and 26th, Sept 2nd, 3rd and 5th. Kempton Park Res, two on Mar 29th and one on June 8th. Perry Oaks SF, single birds on May 17th, 21st and 28th. Staines Moor, one on Aug 30th, Sept 3rd and 6th. Stanwell Moor, singles on Aug

30th, Sept 3rd and 5th. *Inner London*: St James's Park, one fully-winged female on Aug 4th which was originally thought to be wild may well have been part of the collection.

Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Apr 4th.

Surrey Beddington SF, two between Apr 15th and 22nd and one between May 15th and 20th, three on June 12th and one between July 12th and 14th with a second between July 16th and 18th; then two between July 19th and 31st with one remaining throughout August and up to Sept 11th. Walton Res, one between Aug 14th and Sept 11th.

0192 **Blue-winged Teal**

Anas discors

Status: rare vagrant.

Herts Hilfield Park Res, a male in eclipse plumage was seen on the evening of Aug 25th but had departed by the following day (GSE,JF,SMY).

The fourth record for the London Area, putting in a brief appearance late in the day, thereby denying those that failed to see the 1995/96 Brent Res bird a chance to catch up with this Nearctic counterpart of our Garganey. This record represents the first autumn occurrence with previous records having fallen between December and April. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

0194 **Shoveler**

Anas clypeata

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeder, with birds often recorded in summer.

Four broods were reported this year though exactly how many breeding pairs this relates to is unclear. These broods were noted at Rainham Marsh and Kempton Park Res and constitute a slightly better showing than in recent breeding seasons. A number of birds were present in June, their numbers increasing towards the end of the month, probably relating to early autumn migrants.

During January, the best counts were of 143 at Walthamstow Res and 159 at King George VI Res, a similar number to 1997. In February, 900+ were reported, including 159 at King George VI Res. Peak counts in autumn from Staines Res included 450 in September and 520 in October. For the second winter-period just over a thousand birds were reported during November, including 127 at Walthamstow Res and 176 at Staines Res. This overall number was approximately maintained to the end of the year with peak December counts of 102 at Stockers Lake and 124 at Barn Elms WWT.

Peak monthly counts from all localities where more than 100 were recorded at some time during the year, are given in tabular form below. Details of breeding or summering birds, highest county counts (where

these were less than 100) and all Inner London records are listed below under the respective county heading.

		<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Essex	Walthamstow Res	143	77	65	18	117	56	127	78
Herts	Stockers Lake	-	75	-	-	-	-	55	102
Middx	Brent Res	-	-	1	2	150	185	21	-
	Broadwater	46	46	-	46	37	106	90	76
	King George VI Res	159	248	199	-	55	119	-	37
	Staines Res	-	11	38	-	450	520	176	14
Surrey	QE II Res	15	18	-	2	255	9	6	18
	Walton Res	23	44	78	31	301	190	80	23

Essex Belhus Woods CP, two pairs summered. Cornmill Meads, one male on June 4th. Dagenham Chase, one male on May 7th. Hall Marsh, one male on May 1st. Ingrebourne Valley, two pairs summered. Rainham Marsh, seven pairs present during the breeding season and a total of three broods seen, a record year for the site. Walthamstow Res, up to 14 during May and up to three in June.

Herts Amwell GP, two on June 3rd and one on June 16th. Cheshunt GP, three on June 5th. Hilfield Park Res, four in May. Rye Meads SF, singles on May 13th and 20th.

Middx Brent Res, four on May 23rd and 30th, and up to six in June. Kempton Park Res, nine young survived from a brood of ten. King George VI Res, one on May 29th. Perry Oaks SF, up to 11 in June. Staines Res, nine on July 23rd. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, three on Jan 14th, two on Feb 11th, four on Mar 2nd and two on June 17th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 12 on Jan 14th, ten on Feb 11th, one on Oct 13th, three on Nov 11th and ten on Dec 16th. Paddington Green, three flew S on Sept 29th. Regent's Park, 40 on Jan 22nd and 27th, one on Apr 2nd, three on July 27th, 18 on Aug 25th, 20 on Sept 20th, 21 on Oct 26th and 50 on Dec 7th. St James's Park, a number of birds in the collection bred and once again some of the young were left free-flying, maximum of ten on Sept 18th.

Bucks Wraysbury GP, 76 on Sept 6th was the highest count for the sector.

Surrey Barn Elms WWT, four in May, two in June. Beddington SF, four in May, ten in June. Island Barn Res, two on Jun 11th and 13th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, singles reported on May 23rd and June 1st. Walton Res, three on May 18th and 21st, six on May 29th, one between June 1st and 15th. *Inner London*: Battersea Park, five in January and six in March.

0194 Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, with its true status clouded by frequent escapes.

The appearance of birds annually at Stoke Newington Res (Middx) where they probably breed (see Appendix 1) may well be the source of many records in London. All records are given, with the exception of those that are obvious escapes, these being shown under Appendix 1.

- Essex Connaught Water, one from Oct 23rd to 27th. Fishers Green, one on Jan 11th. South Hornchurch, Harrow Lodge Farm, a female and two juveniles on July 24th. Walthamstow Res, one on Nov 29th.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, a female and two juveniles were seen on July 27th, thereafter the female and one juvenile remained to July 31st with subsequent appearances on Aug 5th and up to Sept 7th. St. Margarets, five on Feb 7th. Stanstead Abbots GP, five on Feb 6th and one on Dec 19th. Stocker's Lake, singles on Aug 26th and Dec 1st then four on Dec 13th. Tilehouse GP, one on Dec 6th.
- Middx Alexander Park, three on July 21st and one between July 29th and Aug 2nd. Brent Res, one between May 23rd and 30th. Broadwater, one on Feb 25th. Hampton Waterworks, one on Sept 6th. Shepperton GP, two on Jan 10th and singles reported irregularly between Feb 1st and Mar 12th. Staines Res, two from Aug 6th to 8th. Trent Park, one on Oct 29th. Wood Green Res, three on July 19th and 20th.
- Bucks Tilehouse GP, one on Dec 5th. Wraysbury GP, singles reported on Aug 9th, 15th, 29th, Sept 6th, 19th and Oct 11th.
- Surrey Kew Gardens, one on May 31st. Lonsdale Road Res, one on July 31st. Walton Res, one on Oct 15th. West End Common, one on Apr 25th.

0198 Pochard

Aythya ferina

Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder.

About 64 broods/ breeding pairs were reported this year (c42 broods in 1997) and an additional 11 pairs summered in the Area. Inner London reports were something of a mixed bag with a respectable 14 breeding pairs reported from Regents Park, whilst on the other hand, Hyde Park/ Kensington Gardens registered only one brood (two in 1997 and ten in 1996). Observers are reminded to continue to submit all details of breeding, or lack of it, for this species.

Numbers during the first winter-period were at fairly normal levels and similar to 1997 but at the end of the year were more than last year with c2,300 birds during December. The most significant autumn concentration was at Wraysbury GP (Bucks) in October when up to 356 birds were noted. Peak monthly counts from all localities where more than 150 were present at sometime during the year are given in tabular form. Details of breeding and summering birds and Inner London site maxima are listed under the respective county heading.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Fishers Green	158	84	78	19	-	-	39	-	87
	Netherall GP	181	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Walthamstow Res	284	142	101	34	109	117	50	227	215
Herts	Hilfield Park Res	117	35	2	2	197	212	61	25	58
	Stocker's Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	159	232
Middx	Broadwater	54	189	-	-	-	37	12	86	300
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	361	232	59	-	67	124	356	-	371
Surrey	Thorpe Water Park	37	40	38	-	-	-	178	31	219

- Essex Berwick Ponds, five to six pairs summered and two to three broods were seen. Connaught Water, one female with a brood of nine in early May. Hornchurch CP, two to three pairs summered. Rainham GP, three pairs summered and one to two broods noted. Rainham Marsh, one pair summered but up to ten non-breeding birds were present in June. Walthamstow Res, 47 in May, 51 in June, and a total of 13 broods reported.
- Herts Aldenham Res, six on June 14th. Amwell GP, 2-3 broods. Rye Meads SF, two broods.
- Middx Alexander Park, one brood of four. Bedfont Lakes CP, two pairs bred. Brent Res, up to four in June. Grovelands Park, six on June 10th. Tottenham Cemetery, one pair with three young on June 25th. Wood Green Res, 16 at evening roost on May 19th and 12 at roost on June 14th. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, six on Dec 16th, one pair bred. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 31 on Dec 16th, just one brood of three young seen this year. Little Venice, four on Mar 11th and three on Apr 2nd. Regents Park, 201 on Feb 11th, 14 pairs bred. St James's Park, 81 on Mar 11th, 11 broods reported. Victoria Park, 23 on Apr 10th, three pairs bred.
- Bucks Old Slade Lakes, one brood.
- Kent Ruxley GP, 63 on Dec 5th was the highest count for the sector.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, two broods totalling seven young. Beddington SF, one in May, four in June. Lonsdale Road Res, one pair bred and produced four young, the first breeding at this site since 1993. Richmond Park, Pen Ponds, one on May 23rd. Walton Res, three in May, five in June. *Inner London*: Burgess Park, 19 on Feb 8th. Surrey Docks, two on Jan 28th.

1997 Additional record

Inner London: Surrey Docks, seven on Jan 12th and 15th.

0203 Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

Status: regular resident breeder and common winter visitor.

The total number of broods reported this year was 232 (222 in 1997) but this figure is a minimal count as reports of 100 ducklings reared at St James's Park, 233 at Rye Meads SF and 61 at Barn Elms WWT were received without any comment on brood numbers. Nevertheless, with reports of a further 28 breeding pairs, and an additional c27 summering (but apparently non-breeding) pairs across the Area, it seems as though the breeding fortunes of this species are currently stable. Overall, breeding activity was reported from 43 sites, and the actual number of sites reporting broods numbered c40 (43 in 1997). Broods in recent years have fluctuated between 200 and 300.

Good sized flocks of moulting birds congregated at various sites during August with, for example, 2,000 at Walthamstow Res, 1,251 at Staines Res. Numbers during both winter periods were far lower than those achieved during the same period of 1997, probably as a result of more

moderate temperatures, though Wraysbury GP did hold in excess of a thousand birds in December.

Details of large breeding concentrations, July moulting flocks over 50, and the highest county counts where these were less than 500, along with Inner London site maxima are given in the text under their respective county heading. Peak monthly counts from all localities that held in excess of 500 birds at some time during the year are given below in tabular form.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	King George V Res	210	180	130	40	350	740	310	408	336
	Walthamstow Res	774	450	554	416	2000	830	441	727	849
	Wm Girling Res	32	71	52	14	768	433	116	81	96
Middx	Broadwater	184	529	-	145	60	150	175	168	500
	Staines Res	3	34	52	12	1251	517	369	152	120
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	594	387	206	120	702	807	671	-	1006
Kent	Sevenoaks Reserve	210	255	94	35	300	333	432	467	550
Surrey	Walton Res	155	63	77	66	538	49	61	133	161

Essex King George V Res, 114 on July 19th. Walthamstow Res, 1883 on July 16th and a total of 38 broods noted. William Girling Res, up to 496 in July.

Herts Rye Meads SF, 50 pairs hatched a minimum of 233 young. Stockers Lake, 279 on Dec 13th was the highest reported count for the sector.

Middx Brent Res, 52 on July 12th. Hampton Waterworks, 106 on July 19th. King George VI Res, 300 on July 25th. Staines Res, 848 on July 25th. The Causeway NR, 71 on July 19th. Wraysbury Res, 129 on July 11th. *Inner London:* Buckingham Palace, 20 on Mar 2nd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 104 on Mar 11th. Limehouse, one in July. Little Venice, one on Nov 5th. Paddington Green, seven flew E on Apr 23rd. Primrose Hill, two flew W on July 2nd. Regents Canal at St John's Wood, five on June 17th. Regents Park, 244 on Feb 2nd, 12 pairs bred. St James's Park, 140 on June 17th, bred, over 100 ducklings reported from an unknown number of broods/breeding pairs. Victoria Park, 100+ on Feb 1st, one pair bred.

Bucks Wraysbury GP, 378 on July 12th.

Kent Ruxley GP, 84 on July 24th, five broods reported. Thamesmead, peak count of 415 on Dec .

Surrey Barn Elms WWT, 195 in July. Walton Res, 469 on July 30th. *Inner London:* Battersea Park, three broods seen. Burgess Park, 52 on Feb 8th. Folkestone Gardens, Deptford, one pair raised seven young. Lambeth Bridge, nine on Nov 20th. Southwark Park, 13 on Feb 10th. Surrey Docks, 233 on Dec 5th, two pairs bred.

0204 Scaup

Aythya marila

Status: regular but uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant; occasional large influxes during cold weather.

Following last years superb showing, numbers reverted to more normal levels this year. A total of 13 records relating to about 16 birds were

reported from eight sites. The largest groups comprised three female type birds at Queen Mother Res on both Sept 27th and again on Dec 10th, three at King George V Res on Dec 21st and three at Wm Girling Res on Dec 27th. These December records of three female/immatures may relate to the same mobile group. All records are given.

- Essex King George V Res, a first-winter female between Dec 4th and Dec 7th (RMC), then two female/immatures on Dec 18th with three female / immatures on Dec 21st (PJV). Rainham Marsh, one on Jan 25th (KB). Wm Girling Res, one male on July 24th and three on Dec 27th (PJV).
- Middx Brent Res, a female from 1997 to Jan 4th (AGV *et al*), one on Dec 9th (BS). *Inner London*: Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, one on Mar 11th (RFS). Regent's Park, the fully winged (and relatively shy) drake that first appeared back in 1995 was present throughout the year (ARD, DJ, DM).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, three female/immature birds on Sept 27th and again on Dec 10th (JAS).
- Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, one female on Dec 13th (MDN).
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, one female on Dec 31st (BEBG, JPPW, EB).

1997 Additional records.

- Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one on Jan 11th, three on Jan 12th, one on Jan 17th, three on Jan 21st, one on Jan 22nd and one on Feb 4th (RK).

1997 Correction.

- Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, a first year male on Jan 24th should also be credited to RK.

0206 Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Status: scarce winter visitor, usually in winter.

- Essex Nazeing GP, a first-winter male between Jan 11th and Feb 14th (BR *et al*). Walthamstow Res, two females present from Dec 1997 to Jan 4th.
- Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, eight, comprising five immature males and three females on Nov 21st of which two males had departed by 10.40 with six still present on Nov 29th (when a female departed), the remainder present into 1999 (DMH *et al*).

The 41st and 42nd London Area records and the fourth successive year that this species has been encountered in the Area. Two records totalling nine individuals (plus two at Walthamstow Res from 1997) again provided an excellent showing of this elegant and highly attractive maritime duck. The largest group consisted of eight at Queen Elizabeth II Res (Surrey) during November and December and this species must now surely be appearing on an increasing number of personal London Area lists.

0212 Long-tailed Duck***Clangula hyemalis***

Status: scarce but annual visitor.

Herts Tilehouse GP (see below)

Middx Broadwater, the regular wintering female was present intermittently from Jan 10th to May 6th and again from Nov 11th to Dec 25th and was at Tilehouse North Lake (Bucks) intermittently at both ends of the year (mo).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, one female/immature on Nov 7th (CL, JAS). Tilehouse GPs, the regular female was present intermittently from Feb 28th to Mar 29th and again from Nov 14th to Dec 6th (AVM *et al*).

All records relate to the regular female, which has now returned to winter in or around the above sites for her eighth consecutive year. This year she was last noted on May 6th and returned on Nov 7th.

0213 Common Scoter***Melanitta nigra***

Status: passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, never numerous.

A good year with 20 records relating to a total of c36 birds, the largest groups being four at Wm Girling Res on Mar 23rd and four at King George VI Res on Jun 20th. Queen Mother Res scored an impressive series of records. Arrivals were scattered over seven different months between March and November; a typically wide spread of dates, again serving to highlight the fact that this species may well be encountered at any time of year, but particularly in spring and late autumn. All records are given.

Essex Barking Bay, one female on the Thames on Nov 1st and what was thought to be probably the same bird there on Nov 14th (AJD). Fairlop Lake, two males on Mar 23rd (AAB). King George V Res, two on Mar 16th (AM *et al*), one male on Apr 20th (PJV) and one female/immature from Nov 14th to 16th (AG *et al*). William Girling Res, four males on Mar 23rd and one male on July 11th (PJV).

Herts Hilfield Park Res, one female/immature on Sept 27th (GSE, JF, MW).

Middx Brent Res, one male from Apr 4th to 8th (ASMS *et al*). King George VI Res, four males on June 20th (PN). Staines Res, two (one male) on Oct 8th (DJM). Wraysbury Res, one female on July 18th (CL).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, one male on Apr 9th and 10th, three females or immatures on Apr 13th, one male on June 20th, two (one male) one 28th, one female on July 17th, two (one male) on Sept 27th and three females on Nov 28th (DJM, JAS).

Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, two (one male) on Mar 23rd (SJS).

0215 Velvet Scoter***Melanitta fusca***

Status: rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

Surrey Island Barn Res, two females briefly on Dec 5th (SJS).

This species has now put in a showing in the last six consecutive years and remains particularly worth searching for between October and December.

0218 Goldeneye***Bucephala clangula***

Status: common winter visitor, occasional summer records.

Peak counts from the first winter-period came from King George V Res with 63 in January, and from Wraysbury GP with 65 in February. The best count in March was 70 at King George V Res with the last bird of the spring at Wraysbury GP on May 2nd. The first of the autumn was found at Wm Girling Res on July 25th and subsequent second winter-period numbers were unexceptional with the best December count consisting of 68 birds at Wraysbury GP. Peak monthly counts from all principle localities (where 20 or more were reported) are given below in tabular form and details of peak counts over five are given in the text under the respective county heading.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Fishers Green	21	11	14	1	-	-	11
	King George V Res	63	44	70	30	-	56	60
	Nazeing GP	10	20	-	-	-	-	-
	Walthamstow Res	33	20	10	-	-	9	16
	Wm Girling Res	10	14	17	1	-	14	24
Herts	Amwell GP	28	32	5	-	-	4	4
	Stockers Lake	20	8	15	-	-	8	14
Middx	Broadwater	16	34	24	-	-	7	13
	King George VI Res	42	3	6	52	3	26	15
	Shepperton GP	-	20	18	-	-	-	-
	Staines Res	17	54	58	7	1	32	36
Bucks	Wraysbury Res	-	-	34	-	-	1	6
	Wraysbury GP	47	65	27	29	-	3	67
Surrey	Thorpe Water Park	16	17	26	-	-	-	23
	Walton Res	30	38	37	26	1	5	5

Herts Bury Lake, six on Mar 15th. Cheshunt GP, five on Jan 30th, seven on Friday Lake on Mar 13th. Rye Meads SF, 18 on Mar 15th.

Middx Queen Mary Res, seven on Jan 1st and 11 on Dec 13th.

Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, seven in January, eight in February and up to ten in December.

Surrey Field Common GP, up to ten in January, up to 18 in February and five in March. Island Barn Res, five on Dec 12th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 11 on Jan 31st, ten on Feb 2nd, six on Nov 27th and ten on Dec 20th.

1997 Additional Record.

Middx Staines Res, 118 on Feb 28th.

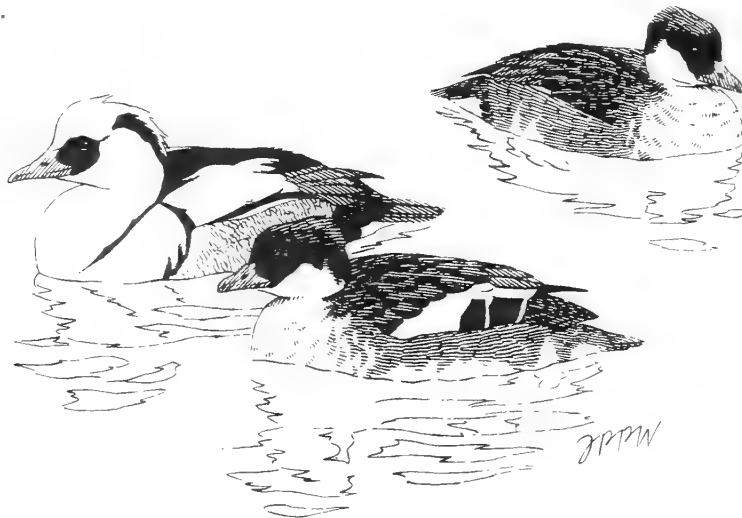
1997 Correction.

Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one female on Jan 12th should read from Jan 12th to Feb 4th (RK).

0220 Smew***Mergus albellus***

Status: winter visitor in highly variable numbers.

Numbers during the first winter-period were considerably down on 1997 with some 185 birds present at 26 sites in January, (219 in 1997), 126 at 22 sites in February, (157 in 1997) and 19 at seven sites in March (32 in 1997) reflecting the milder conditions at the start of 1998. The last birds noted in spring were five at Tilehouse GP on Mar 30th and the first of the returning wintering-birds was logged at Walthamstow Res on Nov 22nd. Thereafter, numbers during the second winter-period were very similar, or slightly better than the same corresponding period for 1997. Overall, the number of sites reporting this species during the year reverted to a more normal 36 (compared to an exceptional 63 for 1997), with the best count of the year coming from Wraysbury GP which reported 58 birds on Jan 18th.



Records from the main localities where five or more birds were recorded at least once during the year are summarised in the following table, which gives peak monthly counts. This is followed by all sites where the species was recorded with the peak counts from January to March and November to December in parentheses, along with Inner London records.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
Essex	Fishers Green	11	13	3	5	5
	Hooks Marsh	5	-	-	-	-
	Nazeing GP	6	7	-	-	-
	Netherhall GP	8	-	-	-	-
	Walthamstow Res	4	6	-	1	3
	Wm Girling Res	-	-	-	1	5
Herts	Amwell GP	6	2	-	3	11
	Cheshunt GP	12	6	-	-	9
	Stocker's Lake	7	1	1	-	10
Middx	Bedfont Lakes CP	8	14	-	-	5
	Broadwater	14	24	-	-	6
	Korda Lake	-	9	7	-	9
Bucks	Horton GP	3	6	-	-	-
	Tilehouse North Lake	6	3	5	3	5
	Wraysbury GP	58	8	-	4	27
Surrey	Thorpe Water Park	15	13	1	1	25

- Essex Buckhurst Hill GP (0:4). Eagle Pond (1:1). King George V Res, (0:1).
Paynes Lane GP, (1:0).
- Herts Bowyers GP (1:0). Hilfield Park Res (1:1).
- Middx Brent Res (1:0). Charlton GP (3:0). Kempton Park Res (2:0). Moorhall
GP (4:2). Ruislip Lido (2:0). Shepperton GP (2:0). Stain Hill Res (1:0).
Inner London: Buckingham Palace, one female on Jan 14th (RFS). St.
James's Park, pinioned birds bred but young dispersed elsewhere.
- Bucks Old Slade Lakes Complex (3:2).
- Kent Sevenoaks Reserve (3:3).
- Surrey Longside Lake, Thorpe (1:0). Molesey GP (0:3). Oxted (1:0). Queen
Elizabeth II Res (1:0). Walton Res (2:0).

0221 Red-breasted Merganser***Mergus serrator***

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

The poorest year since 1992 with 11 records relating to about 13 individuals in all. The largest group reported was four at Royal Albert Dock in January. The last bird during the spring was at Queen Mary Res on Mar 28th and the first seen at the other end of the year was at Beckton on Oct 3rd. All records are given.

- Essex Albert Basin, one male on Jan 25th. Beckton, one female flew upriver on
Oct 3rd. Rainham Marsh, one male flew upriver on Feb 1st. Royal Docks,
four on Feb 1st. Walthamstow Res, one female from Jan 1st to 3rd. Wm
Girling Res, three on Mar 23rd and one on Dec 7th.
- Middx Bushy Park, one male on Dec 4th. Queen Mary Res, one female on Mar
28th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one male for an hour on Oct 10th. Epsom Common, one
male on Dec 6th and 11th was thought to possibly be the Walton Res
bird. Walton Res, the usual male returned on Jan 12th and occasionally
visited QEII Res up to Mar 12th when it was last noted, the same bird
reappeared on Nov 13th (now for its fifth winter) and was seen at both
Walton and QEII Res into 1999.

0223 Goosander***Mergus merganser***

Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

Reported from a total of 74 sites during the year. The highest count of the year was 99 at Queen Elizabeth II Res in February. The last bird of the spring was at Wraysbury GP on May 9th and the regularly summering male was seen on the Thames between Barn Elms and Brentford Ait during late May and again in late August (the third consecutive year that this bird has had a presence in the area outside of the more normal periods).

Peak monthly counts from the principal localities (those recording 20 or more birds) are given in tabular form, highest county counts (where these

were lower) and all Inner London records are given under the respective county heading.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Fishers Green	21	15	-	-	-	13	15
	King George VI Res	51	11	10	-	-	18	16
	Nazeing GP	32	5	3	-	-	22	12
	Wm Girling Res	25	31	28	1	-	22	23
Herts	Stocker's Lake	28	10	7	-	-	-	6
Middx	Trent Park	20	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Wraysbury Res	21	54	5	1	-	-	30
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	59	41	23	1	-	1	64
Surrey	QE II Res	96	99	37	8	-	23	43
	Thorpe Water Park	23	6	2	-	-	3	16
	Walton Res	73	30	26	2	-	18	19

Middx *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, one male on Jan 14th (RFS).

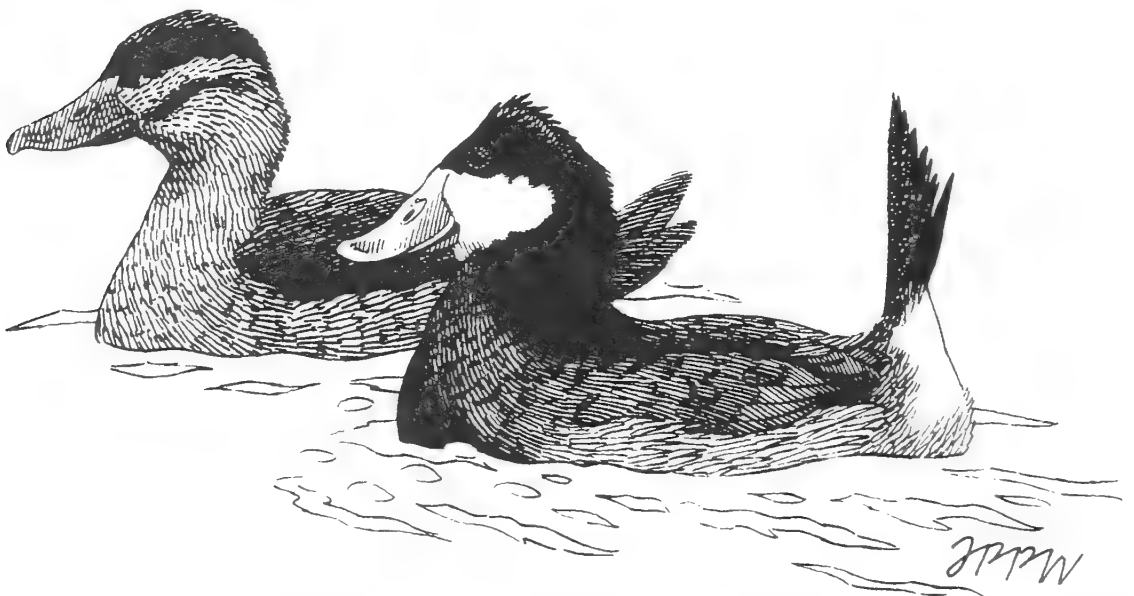
Kent Reported from four sites with three birds at Chipstead Lake on Dec 17th being the highest count for the sector.

Surrey Brentford Ait, one female on the Thames on Aug 22nd and 23rd (this individual has been around for at least two years now and is thought to be either injured or of captive origin). R. Thames at Hammersmith, the usual male on May 26th (possibly an injured bird) was also seen on the Thames at Barnes and Kew. *Inner London*: Bernie Spain Gardens, one male on the Thames by the Oxo tower on Feb 16th (GG). Chelsea Creek, three on Mar 23rd (GG).

0225 Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

Status: widespread winter visitor of feral origin, resident in small numbers, localised breeder.



This year a maximum of 17 pairs bred and at least a further three pairs summered (in 1997, 16 pairs bred and an additional seven pairs summered).

Once more, Hilfield Park Res continues to be the most densely populated wintering site with some large counts during the first three months of the year, including the highest count for any one site during the year (227 in February), though numbers were lower during the second winter-period with 154 in November and 150 in December.

Peak monthly counts from the principal localities (those where more than 20 were reported at some time during the year) are given in tabular form; with details of breeding and summering birds and Inner London records given in the text under the respective county heading.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	King George V Res	26	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
	Walthamstow Res	20	24	11	-	2	-	-	7	19
Herts	Hilfield Park Res	217	227	174	16	57	114	136	154	150
Middx	Brent Res	5	5	5	20	8	12	20	13	14
	Broadwater	61	25	30	13	-	-	5	24	132
	Hampton Waterworks	16	3	-	-	-	-	-	5	30
	Staines Res	1	4	-	-	2	13	42	16	23
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	3	-	6	10	-	5	-	10	26
Surrey	Walton Res	58	49	9	7	8	7	24	47	27

Essex Berwick Ponds, two pairs summered. Dagenham Chase, one male in May. Fishers Green, one pair during May. Rainham GP, one pair summered. Walthamstow Res, four in May.

Herts Amwell GP, one pair bred but were unsuccessful. Hilfield Park Res, three pairs bred raising a total of 18 young. Verulamium Lake, one pair bred.

Middx Brent Res, six broods. Grovelands Park, a pair were noted with a single juvenile on May 11th. Kempton Park Res, three in June and July. Stain Hill Res, five on July 19th. The Causeway NR, an unspecified number of pairs bred and four young were seen. *Inner London*: Regents Park, one pair bred unsuccessfully, eight on Dec 7th and 8th (ARD,DJ).

Bucks Old Slade Lakes, two on July 27th.

Surrey Barn Elms WWT, bred, one brood of five young seen. Beddington SF, one brood of six. Lonsdale Road Res, one pair bred and raised at least one young. Walton Res, two broods.

1997 Additional record

Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one male on Jan 17th (RK).

0239 Red Kite

Milvus milvus

Status: rare but increasing visitor

Herts Rickmansworth GC, two on Feb 16th (RW). Stocker's Lake, one on July 8th (RRD).

Middx Bury Farm, Edgware, one on Feb 16th (FB).

Surrey Beddington SF, singles flew E on Feb 23rd (PA) and W on Apr 26th (JPA,KIM,RDW). Richmond Park, one on Dec 16th (ARD).

Six records of seven birds is a slight increase over the three in 1997, but is about average for recent years. Unfortunately a number of records for 1998 were unsubstantiated (see Appendix III) and observers are requested to submit field notes. There were no reports of any these birds being wing-tagged, but it is likely that the winter records relate to captive released birds or their off-spring, whilst the April record fits into the typical spring continental migration pattern.

0260 Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Status: scarce but increasing passage migrant.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Apr 22nd (KB). Fairlop Lake, one on May 3rd (AAB,CRJ). Hooks Marsh, one flew N, on May 20th (PJV). Hornchurch and CP, one on May 3rd and 4th (DMn). Rainham Marsh, at least six different birds were thought to have been recorded at this site this year including an immature pair which probably summered in the area (mo).
- Middx Brent Res, one flew E on May 2nd (LAB, RB, JPC, AGV). Hampstead Heath, one on May 2nd (WEO), had been seen earlier at Brent Res. Trent Park, one flew SW on Sept 29th (RMC, GJW). *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one flew NE on Oct 7th (ARD).
- Kent Chipstead Lake, one on Aug 5th (TRS). Crayford and Dartford Marshes one on June 14th (DMr, BEW), possibly relates to one of the individuals from Rainham Marsh.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 22nd, Aug 2nd and 19th; and Sept 20th (BBR). Richmond Park, one flew SW on Aug 11th (SCi).

Fourteen records this year is a increase on last year's ten records. There were six spring records and seven in the autumn, representing an almost equal spring/autumn divide. The intermittent spring and summer records of an immature male and female at Rainham Marsh presents an interesting prospect for the future. Records this year were fairly spread over the whole of the Area, although the eastern sector holds the majority, with Beddington SF continuing its annual run of records from the south.

0261 Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Status: scarce migrant; formerly a regular winter visitor to the Thameside marshes.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, one ringtail between Oct 18th and Nov 21st. (SC *et al*).
- Bucks Horton GP, a ringtail flew W on Mar 19th (CDRH).

Two records is a slight decrease on last year's three records and is consistent with recent trend of low numbers of this species in the London Area. The Rainham Marsh bird which was present intermittently for a month, echoes the better days when this species was a regular wintering bird in the east on the Thames-side Marshes.

0267 Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*
Status: rare passage migrant

Herts Cheshunt GP, one on Mar 30th (WR). Locality withheld, singles on Mar 12th, 13th and 31st, and Apr 12th (LM). Tyttenhanger GP, a male on Apr 10th (LM).

1997 Additional Record

Middx Coppetts Wood, one on Mar 30th (AC).

These represent the 16th to 19th records for the London Area. This species has been seen in London for three consecutive years with the previous record prior to that being in 1993. The series of records in Herts suggests that breeding in our Area could soon take place.

0269 Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding status is shown in the table below, with other records summarised under the county headings.

	<i>Pairs proved breeding</i>	<i>Pairs probably breeding</i>	<i>Other pairs present</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Essex	33	6	4	43
Herts	6	1	11	18
Middx	23	5	5	33
Inner London	2	1	1	4
Bucks	1	-	8	9
Kent	1	3	9	13
Surrey	16	11	10	37
Total	80	27	43	150

The number of pairs proved breeding has decreased by 25% to 80 pairs from the 108 in 1997. This is primarily due to the incomplete data from the Herts sector. Even with this missing information, it should be borne in mind that the total number of pairs proved breeding in 1996 was only 55.

Bucks One pair confirmed breeding this year, same as in 1997, but the overall number of pairs present has decreased from eleven in 1997 to only eight this year. Reported from 9 sites, compared with 14 last year.

Essex 33 pairs bred, a slight increase on last year's 29 confirmed breeding pairs, with the overall number of pairs remaining at 43. Reported from 39 sites.

Herts Six pairs were reported to have bred, with only 11 pairs reported as having been present. Reported from 50 sites.

Middx 20 pairs bred compared with 32 pairs in 1997, with the total number of pairs present also decreasing to 28, from 39 in 1997. Reported from 54

- sites. *Inner London*: single pairs bred at Burnhills Fields, EC1, Holland Park and Regent's Park. Reported from 19 locations, matching 1997.
- Kent Only one pair was reported breeding this year compared with seven in 1997. The total number of pairs present this year decreased to 13, from 16 in 1997. Reported from 39 sites.
- Surrey 16 pairs bred, compared to last years 17 pairs, with the total number of pairs present increasing to 37, compared to 27 in 1997. Reported from 78 sites. *Inner London*: no pairs were reported to have bred this year (one pair in 1997). Reported from 13 sites, compared with seven in 1997.

1997 Additional Record

- Middx Pinner Park Farm, one pair bred.

0287 Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo

Status: rare breeder, becoming an increasingly regular resident/visitor.

- Essex Chingford Plain, one on Oct 1st (KM). Connaught Water, one flew N on Dec 20th (RC). Epping Forest, one on Apr 28th and June 26th. Hornchurch CP, one on Mar 28th (LH). Walthamstow Res one on Mar 22nd (PL) and Aug 2nd (DB). Whitehall Plain, one on Sept 21st (KM). Location A, one pair bred, at least four young, present throughout the year (AJD *et al*).
- Herts Abbots Langley, one on Oct 10th (CME). Amwell GP, one on Jan 3rd and 18th; Feb 7th, Mar 31st, Apr 3rd, July 21st, Aug 20th and Oct 25th (SC,PL,BR,GJW). Berrybushes Wood, one on Oct 22nd (GJW). Jersey Farm, one on May 11th (WH). Panshanger Park, two on Feb 24th, three on June 7th, and one on Sept 2nd (GJW). Prae Wood, three on May 29th, four on May 30th, five on June 6th, two on July 2nd, three on Aug 15th, four on Sept 16th and one Dec 27th (SC,DL,PL,GJW). Rye Meads SF, one on Jan 17th (GJW).
- Middx Cowley, one on Oct 25th (PGa). Fernyhill Farm, one on Sept 23rd (RMC,RJW). Hampstead Heath, one on Apr 25th and May 2nd (WEO). Hounslow Heath, one on May 20th (JH). Tottenham Marsh, one on Mar 18th (PL). Vicarage Farm Enfield, one on Apr 5th (GJW,RJW). *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one on Aug 27th (ARD).
- Bucks Chalfont Park, one June 24th (PES). Langley Park, one on Aug 2nd (NA). Wraysbury GP, one on May 12th and July 4th (CDRH, RRG).
- Kent Brasted, two on June 21st (BJT). Joyce Green Hospital, one May 20th (BEW). Sevenoaks Reserve, one on May 4th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, one on May 4th and Aug 27th (ASn, JPPW). Beddington SF, one on May 5th, June 22nd and Aug 31st (PA, BBR). Cobham, one on Oct 15th (MSr). Kenley Aerodrome, one on Oct 9th (GM). Limpsfield, one on Aug 15th (PJO). Nore Hill, one on Apr 13th (BJT). Pitchers Wood, Titsey, one on Oct 7th (BH,BJT). Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Nov 22nd (DMH). Warlingham, one on Mar 2nd (BJT).

This year's total of a minimum of 44 records was the same as in 1997. The spread around London continues, with breeding having been reported at one site and birds again present in suitable breeding habitat during summer for prolonged periods at least two other sites, suggesting the possibility of breeding. The Essex breeding record is the first confirmed for this sector in the 20th century.

1996 Correction

Middx Hillend, one on Aug 27th, is in Middlesex, not Essex as shown.

Buzzard *sp*

Buteo/Pernis sp

Surrey Westerham, one on May 23rd (JBi) was considered by the observer to be a Honey Buzzard.

0301 Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Status: scarce passage migrant.

Essex East Ham, one on Apr 28th (AV,HVn). Walthamstow Res, one on May 30th (DL,TR). Yates Meadow, Chingford, one on May 4th and 20th (RC).

Herts Amwell GP, one on Sept 6th and 12th (TB,JBs,DHs,JS,GJW). Bedmond, one on Sept 25th (*per* HNHS). Bowyers GP, one on May 4th was also seen at Hall Marsh. Cheshunt GP, one circled S on May 16th (IK). Rye Meads, one on Sept 19th (RMRG). Tyttenhanger GP singles on Apr 22nd (MB,RF,LM) and Sept 10th (MCB).

Middx Brent Res, one flew W on Sept 5th (ASMS). Tottenham Marsh, one flew S on Oct 1st (JP). *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one on Apr 22nd and May 17th (ARD,DJ).

Surrey Nore Hill, one flew E on Oct 7th (BH,BJT).

17 records is an improvement on the ten records in 1997, and continues a good run of records in recent years of this species. Unfortunately a number of records of this species also remain unsubstantiated (see Appendix III). Records were split equally between spring and autumn, with the first seen on Apr 22nd at Regent's Park and the last passing through on Oct 7th at Nore Hill.

0304 Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding status is shown in the table below, with other records summarised under the county headings together with those for Inner London.

	<i>Pairs proved breeding</i>	<i>Pairs probably breeding</i>	<i>Other pairs present</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Essex	32	1	1	34
Herts	7	1	2	10
Middx	17	2	4	23
Bucks	8	-	6	14
Kent	7	3	-	10
Surrey	6	10	4	20
Total	79	17	17	113

This year's 79 pairs, maintains the increase in the number of reported successful pairs from 62 pairs in 1997. The last time 70 pairs were reported as breeding in the London Area was in 1994. There was also a slight increase in the total number of pairs from last year's 94 pairs, up to 113 this year. These increases follow on from a request for all breeding records. Again can observers send in all breeding or possible breeding records so the situation can be properly monitored regarding this species, which despite the last two year's increases, still does not seem as common as it used to be.

- Essex 32 pairs bred, an increase from the 26 pairs in 1997. Reported from 27 sites, with a maximum of 12 at Rainham Marsh in July, August and October.
- Herts Seven pairs bred, up by one from last year's total. Reported from 35 sites, compared to 11 last year.
- Middx 17 pairs bred, exceeding last year's total of eleven. Reported from 33 sites. *Inner London*: one pair bred in Regent's Park, compared to three in 1996. Reported from 12 sites.
- Bucks Eight pairs bred, an increase from last year's two. Reported from 13 sites.
- Kent Seven pairs bred, a decrease from nine pairs in 1997. Reported from 26 sites.
- Surrey Seven pairs bred, compared to nine in 1997. Reported from 17 sites. *Inner London*: one pair bred at New Cross, with another pair possibly breeding at Chambers Wharf, SE16. Reported from 21 sites.

0309 Merlin

Falco columbarius

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

- Essex Hornchurch CP, one on Mar 27th (KB). Rainham Marsh, singles (one immature female and one male) on Oct 18th and 29th and Nov 1st (KB,SC,MKD,DL,PL). Walthamstow Res, one flew E on Mar 14th (DL).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Oct 7th (GJW). Broxbourne Woods, one on April 8th (per HNHS). St Albans, a male on Oct 3rd. Tyttenhanger GP, a male on Apr 10th (LM).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Nov 23rd (GBy).
- Surrey Queen Elizabeth Res, one on Oct 28th (DMH). Walton Heath, one on Feb 28th (APe).

11 records, is a good increase from last year's six records, but is still below the 15 records in 1996. Most records are fairly evenly spread this year throughout the London Area. Observers are strongly reminded that this species is rare in the London Area and notes should be provided.

1997 Additional records

Middx Brent Res, one on Jan 5th (ASMS). Staines Res, one on Nov 29th (DJM).
 Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Oct 3rd.
 Herts Rye Meads, one immature female on Mar 11th (RMRG).

0310 Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Breeding status is shown in the table below, with all other records summarised in the county headings and Inner London records are given in full.

	<i>Pairs proved breeding</i>	<i>Pairs probably breeding</i>	<i>Other pairs present</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Essex	7	3	1	11
Herts	-	1	-	1
Middx	4	1	1	6
Bucks	-	-	1	1
Kent	-	-	1	1
Surrey	2	1	-	3
Total	13	6	4	23

The number of pairs proved breeding was a slight increase over last year's twelve pairs, but the overall total of 23 pairs is a decrease on the 30 pairs reported in 1997. This may be due to the incomplete data from the Herts area. Again the Bucks area had no confirmed breeding records, but was also joined this year by Herts and Kent areas. The first record of the year was on Apr 16th at Beddington SF, with the last record at Thorpe Water Park on Oct 11th.



- Essex Seven pairs were confirmed to have bred, compared to four in 1997. Reported from 38 sites, with 11 at Cornmill Meads on May 29th.
- Herts No confirmed breeding this year. Reported from only 10 sites, with five at Amwell GP on May 21st and seven at Cheshunt GP on June 2nd.
- Middx Four pairs bred, compared with three in 1997. Reported from 33 sites, with 11 at Broadwater on May 16th and 17th. *Inner London*: Paddington Green, one on July 13th. Primrose Hill, one on June 24th. Regent's Park, one on Sept 12th.
- Bucks Reported from 10 sites, with five at Horton GP on May 12th and 24th.
- Kent No confirmed breeding this year, compared to one pair in 1997. Reported from 14 sites.
- Surrey Three pairs bred compared with two in 1997. Reported from 36 sites. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one on Aug 4th.

0320 Peregrine***Falco peregrinus***

Status: rare breeder, becoming an increasingly regular resident/winter visitor.

- Essex Barking Bay, one on Sept 2nd and Oct 23rd. Beckton, one on Jan 3rd, Aug 31st and Oct 23rd. Chingford, one flew NW on Mar 23rd. Dagenham Chase, one on Jan 14th. Fishers Green, one from Jan 1st to Mar 23rd; singles on July 12th, Sept 24th, Oct 10th, and Nov 5th and 23rd. Paynes Lane GP, one on Jan 22nd. Purfleet, one on Sept 27th. Rainham Marsh, one on Jan 25th, Mar 28th, June 2nd, July 8th, Aug 25th, Sept 10th and 27th; two on Oct 27th; and one on Nov 1st and 21st. Walthamstow Res, one on Feb 22nd and Aug 29th. Location A, pair present through out the year, two young reared, with a third male also occasionally present in the area. First confirmed breeding in Essex this century.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Jan 11th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Jan 7th. Rye Meads SF, one on Apr 4th and Oct 17th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Mar 8th; Apr 4th and 5th; and May 2nd and 10th. Middlesex Filter Beds, one on Feb 15th, 21st and 22nd; May 2nd, Aug 21st and Oct 17th. Queen Mary Res, one on Sept 4th. Staines Res, two on Aug 20th; one on Aug 24th and 25th, then one on various dates from Nov 8th until Dec 20th. Tottenham Marsh, one on Feb 12th. Wraysbury Res, one on Sept 4th and 6th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one on May 4th and Aug 19th (ARD,DJ). Millbank Tower, one on Nov 17th (JC).
- Bucks Horton GP, one on Feb 6th and May 29th. Queen Mother Res, one on various dates from Jan 31st to Apr 3rd; one from June 12th to Sept 3rd; and one on Nov 5th, 6th 16th and 27th. Wraysbury GP, one on Jan 4th and 5th, and an adult on Nov 12th and 17th.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, one on Nov 11th. Dartford Marsh, one on Mar 13th, May 1st and June 13th. Rotherhithe, one on Feb 19th. Thames Barrier, two on Jan 26th, and Feb 2nd and 7th; one on Aug 16th. Location B, one pair attempted to breed but were unsuccessful.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Feb 15th; Mar 4th, 22nd and 24th; and Dec 12th. Chertsey Meads, one on Nov 20th. *Inner London*: Bankside PS,

one on Feb 27th and Mar 17th, and from June 2nd to 9th (JBi,BH,BM). Battersea Park, one on Oct 12th (PL). South Bermondsey, one on Feb 19th (DGe).

This raptor seems to be going from strength to strength in the London Area. It is difficult, if not impossible, to assess the true number of birds involved for a species that can wander so far. There were two sites where birds were resident during the breeding season and it appears to be starting to colonise the area.

0358 Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

Status: breeding resident, declining.

The number of pairs present in the breeding season in each county are shown in the table below.

Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	Total
5	4	1	1	0	1	12

This partridge has been on a sharp decline since 1993, but this year's twelve pairs is a good improvement over the two pairs reported last year. The last time numbers were in double figures was in 1994 when there were 25 pairs. Observers are still requested to submit all records of this species. Confirmed breeding records (number of breeding pairs in brackets) and other records are given below.

- Essex Fishers Green (1). Paynes Lane GP (1). Also reported from Barking Marsh, Claverhambury, Fairlop Plain, Holyfield Hall Farm, Lodge Farm, Maynards Farm, Stapleford Tawney, Theydon Bois and Toot Hill.
- Herts Windridge Farm (1). Also reported from Amwell GP, Chiswell Green, Park Street WCB and Rye Meads SF.
- Middx Vicarage Farm (1). Also reported from Parkside Farm and Pinner Park Farm.
- Bucks Mansfield Farm, eight on Mar 1st and two on May 2nd.
- Surrey Reported from Downside, Nore Hill and Trevereux.

0367 Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Status: breeding resident, declining.

The 11 pairs this year is below the 20 pairs reported for the previous three years. This increase reported in previous years, may to some extent be due to extra observer coverage. Confirmed breeding records (number of breeding pairs in brackets) and all counts are given below.

- Essex Barking Marsh (4), reported in January and May to December; with a maximum of 29 on July 13th. Rainham Marsh (4). Also reported from

- Beckton, Hornchurch CP, Maynards Farm, North Weald, Spratt's Hedgerow Wood and Upshire.
- Herts Reported from Bricket Common, Coursers Lane Fields, Field House Farm (Radlett), and Hatfield Park.
- Middx Vicarage Farm (1), maximum of 12 on Oct 16th.
- Kent Only reported from Swanscombe Marsh.
- Surrey Reported from Limpsfield Chart and Richmond Park, where the maximum was 15 on Oct 25th, which included juveniles, but birds had been released, having been hand reared at Park Cottages.

0370 Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Status: rare summer visitor, irruptive.

- Essex Monkham's Hall, one on May 22nd (GG,DL,PL,ASMS). Woodford, one flew over calling at midnight on May 13th (KM).
- Herts Merry Hill near Bushey, one calling in hay field on May 7th. Rickmansworth, one flew over calling at 00.10 on May 15th (AVM).

Five records is below last years six records which represents the best year for some time. It continues to be a rare find within our Area.

0394 Pheasant *Phasianus colchicius*

Status: common breeding resident.

This species is unquestionably under-recorded and more records would be greatly welcomed, especially breeding records. Breeding records (number of pairs/territorial males in brackets) and locations recorded are given below:

- Essex Barking Bay (3). Beckton (3). Hainault Forest ("several pairs"). North Woolwich (1). Rainham Marsh, (33) - compared to the ten reported in 1997. Weald Park, "a few pairs present". Also reported from Banbury Res.
- Herts Bricket Wood/Common (14). Chiswell Green (4). Garston (4), with three juveniles seen. Otterspool (2). Park Street WCB (1). Potters Crouch, (4). Rye Meads SF, 4 broods reared. Also reported from Chess Valley and Hilfield Park Res.
- Middx No confirmed breeding, though a possible nest was reported at Bushy Park. Reported from Bayhurst Wood, Hampstead Heath, Hill End, Staines Moor, Tottenham Marsh and Vicarage Farm.
- Bucks Mansfield Farm, Iver Heath (3). Oakend Wood (1). Also reported from Alderbourne WCB, Denham CP, Gladwins Wood, Kingcup Farm, Langley Park, Long Coppice, New House Farm, Shredding Green Farm, The Clump (Iver Heath), Ways Farm and Woodlands Park.
- Kent No confirmed breeding this year. Reported from Blackheath, Crossness, Dartford Marsh, Erith Marsh, Foots Cray Meadows, Greenwich Park, Hall

Place Gardens, Hoblingwell Wood, Jubilee Park, Petts Wood, Ruxley GP, Swanscombe Marsh.

Surrey Ashtead Common (4). Nower Wood (3). Park Farm, Chessington (2). Rushett Farm (1). Also reported from Bookham Common, Beddington SF, Epsom Common, Horton CP, Park Hill Recreation Ground, Princes Coverts, Queen Elizabeth Reservoir, and Wimbledon Common.

0407 Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Status: common, but elusive, winter visitor; rare breeder.

The numbers in both winter periods were unremarkable, with the number present in January, matching those from the end of 1997, with a notable drop in numbers by February. The mild conditions in the second-winter period also affected the numbers reported. The details of birds present each month for the first four and last four months of the year, are given in tabular form below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	10	5	8	0	4	4	13	7
Herts	18	5	3	5	4	4	9	21
Middx	6	7	5	1	0	1	5	4
Bucks	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	3
Kent	3	5	2	0	1	2	8	2
Surrey	4	4	4	0	4	5	13	15
Totals	42	27	23	7	13	19	47	52

There was one confirmed breeding record this year of six pairs. There were also birds present in summer at two other sites, equalling the totals for the last two years. Details of the breeding season records and peak winter counts at each site are given below. The figures in brackets represent the highest counts in each of the two winter periods (January to April and September to December).

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (0:1). Berwick Ponds (2:4), six pairs bred, which included two pairs in the Ingrebourne Valley. Dagenham Chase (2:2). Fishers Green (2:4). Hooks Marsh (1:0). Hornchurch CP (3:3). Rainham Marsh (2:1). Walthamstow Res (4:7).

Herts Amwell GP (6:8). Cassiobury Park (4:0). Cheshunt GP (0:4). Chess Valley (0:1). Hilfield Park Res (2:2). Otterspool (0:2). Rye Meads SF (4:4). Scotsbridge Mill (1:0). Stanborough Reedbed (0:5). Stocker's Lake (2:4).

Middx Alexander Park (1:0). Bedfont Lakes CP (1:0), with one on Aug 2nd. Brent Res (2:3). Broadwater (2:0). Bushy Park (1:0). Hampstead Heath (1:1). Tottenham Marsh (3:1).

Bucks Chalfont Park (0:1). Denham, R. Colne (0:1). Thorney CP (0:1). Wraysbury GP (1:1), with one present on June 14th.

Kent Danson Park (1:0). Foots Cray Meadow (1:1). Littlebrook Lake (1:0). Ruxley GP (2:6), with one on July 14th. Sevenoaks Reserve (1:1). St Pauls Cray (1:0).

Surrey Barn Elms WWT (1:2), with one on an unspecified date in June. Beddington SF (1:4). East Molesey, River Ember (0:1). Field Common GP (1:0). Godstone, Bay Pond (1:0). Mitcham, Spencer Road Wetlands (0:1). South Norwood CP (1:4). Walton Res (2:4).

0424 Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Status: very common breeding resident.

Details of large counts of 30 or over, reported breeding records and Inner London records are given below.

Essex Beckton, four pairs bred. Dagenham Chase, six pairs bred; 30 on Dec 15th. Fishers Green, 112 on Dec 20th. Rainham Marsh, 87 pairs located; 75 on Sept 17th. Walthamstow Res, seven broods; 69 on Nov 7th.

Herts Aldenham Res, seven territories. Amwell GP, 17 pairs bred. Borehamwood, three pairs bred. Bricket Wood, 12 territories. Hilfield Park Res, four pairs bred. Verulamium Lake, eight territories; 32 on Jan 12th.

Middx Brent Res, 40 on Feb 15th. East India Dock, one pair bred. Enfield, Turkey Brook, three pairs bred. Kempton Park Res, six broods. Wood Green Res, one brood seen; 50 on Nov 19th. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, one pair bred. Camden, Regents Canal, one pair bred. Hyde Park, one pair bred. Regent's Park, nine pairs bred; 36 on Mar 11th. St James's Park, several broods seen totalling 15 young; 56 on Nov 11th. Regents Canal at St Johns Wood, two pairs bred.

Bucks Chalfont Park, 45 on Feb 1st. Wraysbury GP, 58 on Jan 18th.

Kent Beckenham Place Park, one pair bred. Bromley, River Ravensbourne, one pair bred. Hither Green Cemetery, one pair bred. Ruxley GP, 32 on Sept 12th. Woodlands Farm, one pair bred.

Surrey Barn Elms WWT, three broods; 31 on Nov 20th. Barwell Court Farm, one territory. Beddington SF, 60 on Oct 11th. Bookham Common, nested on eight ponds. Epsom Common, two pairs bred. Holmethorpe SP, ten pairs bred. Kingston, River Hogsmill, three broods. Lonsdale Road Res, three pairs bred. Morden Hall Park, seven territories. Nonsuch Park, two pairs bred. Nower Wood, two territories. Park Farm, Chessington, one territory. River Wandle, between Carshalton and Wandsworth, 54 territories. Waddon Ponds, four pairs bred. Walton Res, three pairs bred. West End Common, one pair bred. Wimbledon Common, five territories. *Inner London*: Burgess Park, one pair bred. Folkestone Gardens, Deptford, one pair bred. Surrey Docks, five pairs bred.

0429 Coot

Fulica atra

Status: very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Details of peak monthly counts outside the breeding season from principal sites where at least one count during the year exceeds 200, are given below in tabular form. Details of breeding concentrations in excess of ten

pairs and Inner London breeding records are summarised under the county headings.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Fishers Green	589	127	273	-	-	-	-	-
	King George V Res	150	200	96	4	290	140	130	110
	Walthamstow Res	363	283	267	139	374	355	370	395
Herts	Amwell GP	290	202	135	-	298	187	167	152
	Bowyers GP	-	212	-	63	-	279	-	-
	Hilfield Park Res	100	100	65	48	323	250	252	210
Middx	Stocker's Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	260	260
	Brent Res	-	266	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Broadwater	190	122	-	-	620	720	565	680
Bucks	Staines Res	-	5	10	8	269	211	47	30
	Wraysbury GP	512	559	480	64	376	522	-	640
Kent	Ruxley GP	200	135	98	60	140	-	210	230
	Sevenoaks Reserve	260	472	94	36	161	115	107	90
Surrey	Beddington SF	19	18	26	44	290	426	448	431
	Thorpe Park	278	292	150	-	-	214	352	344

Essex Rainham Marsh, 65 pairs present in the breeding season.

Herts Aldenham Res, 21 pairs bred. Amwell GP, 39 pairs bred. Hilfield Park Res, 220 in August. Verulamium Lake, 20 pairs bred.

Middx Brent Res, 16 nests. Kempton Park Res, 19 broods. Perry Oaks SF, 13 pairs bred. Yiewsley Lake, 193 on Sept 27th. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, two broods. Grand Union Canal, Kensal Town, one nest. Hyde Park, seven nests. Kensington Gardens, 64 on Nov 28th and 67 on Dec 6th. Little Venice, two pairs bred. Regents Canal, between St Johns Wood and Victoria Park, 16 pairs bred. Regents Park, ten pairs bred; 141 on Dec 16th. St James's Park, one pair bred; 98 on Nov 11th. Victoria Park, seven pairs bred; 51 on Sept 18th.

Kent Ruxley GP, ten nests.

Surrey Barn Elms WWT, 15 broods. Island Barn Res, 187 on Dec 29th. Morden Hall Park, 10 territories. River Wandle, between Carshalton and Morden Hall Park, 33 territories. Waddon Ponds, 15 pairs bred. *Inner London*: Burgess Park, one pair bred. Southwark Park, one pair bred. Surrey Docks, 11 pairs; 41 on Oct 10th and Dec 17th.

0450 Oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

Status: localised breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numbers appear to be increasing along the Lower Thames, both as a breeding bird, and as a passage migrant and winter visitor. In the breeding season, proved breeding was noted at Barking Bay/Marsh (one pair), Beckton (one or two pairs), Rainham Marsh (two or three pairs summered, at least one of which bred), Silvertown (one pair) and West Thurrock (one pair). A total of 5-8 pairs at five locations is an all time high within the London Area boundary. Likewise, outside the breeding season, numbers reached some impressive totals, particularly during the latter half of the year.

Peak counts at the main sites included, Dartford Marsh (12 on July 26th, 13 on Oct 21st and 14 on Nov 1st), Grays (five on Nov 30th), Purfleet and Rainham Marsh (24 on Nov 6th), Silvertown (11 on July 19th), Thamesmead (nine on Sept 2nd) and West Thurrock (16 on Dec 28th). Birds were reported all along the river as high as Greenwich with records from all months of the year.

Records away from the Thames are shown below by county. Dates refer to single birds unless shown in brackets with a higher number.

- Essex Banbury Res, May 23rd. Chingford, Aug 19th. Cornmill Meads, July 8th (3). Dagenham Chase, Apr 19th. Fairlop Lake/Plain, Jan 20th and Apr 19th. Hall Marsh, Apr 10th to 17th. Walthamstow Res, Mar 29th, May 10th and July 7th. Wm Girling Res, Apr 14th, Aug 2nd, 15th (2) and Sept 11th.
- Herts Cheshunt GP, July 8th (3).
- Middx Bedford Lakes CP, Mar 24th, Apr 12th and Aug 15th. King George VI Res, Aug 13th and 15th. Millwall, Aug 2nd. Queen Mary Res, Feb 28th, Aug 31st (2) and Nov 25th. Staines Res, Mar 3rd and 7th, May 4th, and July 16th, Aug 2nd (4), 15th, 16th, 30th (7) and 31st (2), Sept 1st (4) and 27th, Oct 4th and 9th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, Feb 26th and 27th, Mar 2nd, Apr 3rd, May 24th, June 5th, July 11th, 16th and 24th (2), Aug 3rd, 6th, 13th, 16th 19th and 23rd. Wraysbury GP, May 17th.
- Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, Mar 30th and Apr 1st.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, May 13th, July 27th (6) and Aug 8th (7). Beddington SF, May 23rd (2) and July 30th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, Mar 18th and 25th (2), May 14th, July 11th, 19th, 20th, 21st (5), 24th, 26th (5) and 30th (2), Aug 2nd (2), 18th and 31st, and Sept 3rd. Walton Res, Mar 31st.

1997 Correction

- Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one on May 10th, not May 5th.

0456 **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Status: a scarce visitor in all months of the year, has bred once.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, two on Mar 28th (GH) and one on Oct 3rd (AJD). Rainham Marsh, singles on Oct 3rd and 6th (SC,BOD,MOD,PS), and on Nov 11th and 12th (MKD,SRP).
- Middx Staines Res, one on Oct 4th (mo), two on Nov 2nd and 3rd (KLP), three on Nov 22nd (RJK,DMH), two on Nov 28th (DMH) and then singles on many dates up to Dec 4th (mo), with two again on Dec 1st (RDE).
- Surrey Walton Res, one on Apr 1st and 2nd (SA,DMH,JMH).

Apart from two spring records, all records were confined to the late autumn and early winter.

0459 Stone-curlew*Burhinus oedicnemus*

Status: rare passage migrant

Essex Beckton, one on Aug 1st (AJD). Essex Filter Beds, one on May 1st (GJ et al).

Still a very unusual visitor to the Area, and one that is likely to turn up in almost any sort of habitat. April has in the past been the best month for disorientated migrants.

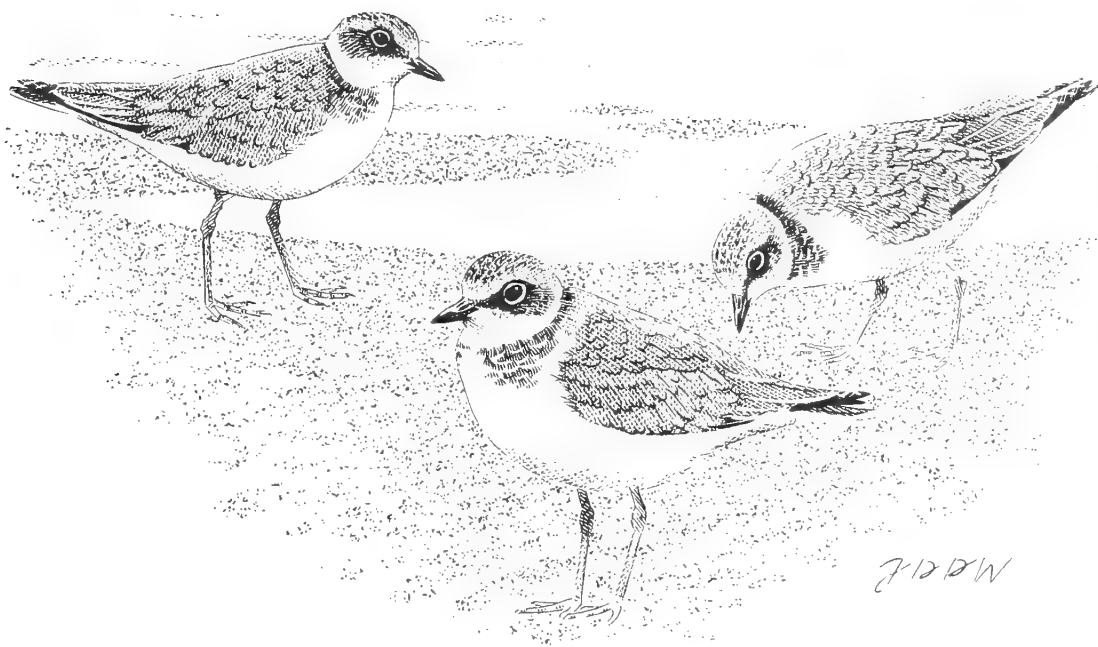
0469 Little Ringed Plover*Charadrius dubius*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

An early migrant was seen at Rainham Marsh on Mar 13th, but it was ten days later before there were any widespread arrivals at other localities. Birds were noted at many different sites during the spring months, although numbers were generally low. Barn Elms WWT did particularly well with peak counts of nine in March, 17 in April, and 20 in June. At Perry Oaks SF there were 13 on May 21st.

Breeding season records are shown in the following table.

	Sites	Pairs attempted breeding	Other pairs present	Total pairs
Essex	7	3	9	12
Herts	4	4	4	8
Middx	6	7	1	8
Bucks	1	0	1	1
Kent	1	0	2	2
Surrey	2	6	3-4	9-10
Totals	21	20	20-21	40-41



Yet again there was another fall in the number of breeding pairs which must give cause for concern, particularly the number of former sites where this species used to breed. Likewise some of the large flocks that used to build up in July now seem to be missing, with the highest counts only of 18 at Barn Elms WWT on July 4th, and 15 at Perry Oaks SF on July 11th. However a count of 20 at Rainham Marsh on Aug 31st probably had its origins from further afield. Few birds were seen after the end of August and the last was at Cornmill Meads on Sept 27th.

0470 Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

Status: localised breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor

In the following summary all proved or possible breeding records are given, together with the highest counts of wintering and migrant birds in each sector.

Essex Pairs were noted during the breeding season at Barking Bay/Marsh (one pair bred), Belhus Woods CP (one pair possibly bred), Hall Marsh (one pair raised one chick), Hornchurch CP (probably bred), Rainham Marsh (probably bred) and Silvertown (two pairs bred in Thames Barrier Park). Counts along the Lower Thames remained very low at the beginning of the year, but 100 were at Rainham Marsh on Aug 27th, and there were several counts approaching this in the last three months. Highest monthly counts along the river in the following table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barking Bay/ Marsh	11	1	5	-	-	5	-	1	5	25	30	59
Grays	-	60	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	90	96	18
Rainham Marsh	-	-	-	-	14	2	30	100	2	5	20	-

Away from the river, the largest count was seven at Wm Girling Res on Aug 6th, and possibly 10 here on Aug 8th.

Herts Amwell GP, six on May 13th, and a pair bred unsuccessfully.

Middx Kempton Park Res, three breeding pairs, but only one brood raised. Perry Oaks SF, a single chick was seen on May 28th. Highest counts are shown in the following table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Perry Oaks SF	-	-	19	11	32	15	28	5	-	-	-	-
Staines Res	1	19	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	1	5	-

Bucks Wraysbury GP, up to four birds around the rubbish tip between March and May.

Kent Thames Barrier, a pair in April did not breed. Counts along the Lower Thames were sporadic at best, but included: Dartford Marsh, eight on May 8th and 45 on Aug 18th and 23rd. Erith Reach, 47 on Oct 11th.

Stone Marsh, 20 on Aug 22nd. Thames Barrier Area, 16 on Jan 6th and 26 on Feb 4th, and Thamesmead, 58 on Dec 12th.

Surrey Highest count was at Beddington SF, where there were up to five in August.

0485 Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

Status: regular winter visitor to parts of the Area, scarce winter and passage migrant elsewhere.

As usual the largest winter flocks were noted from the more rural parts of Essex and Herts and only relatively few were recorded from other areas. At the beginning of the year, several sites noted counts over 1,000 but most had dispersed before the start of March, after which only very few were seen. A late bird lingered at Cornmill Meads until May 31st. The usual scattering of odd singles and small flocks appeared in the autumn from Aug 25th, but there were no large flocks on the ground before October. Several wintering sites noted increases on previous highest counts, notably Dagenham Chase and Woodoaks Farm (Maple Cross). In the following summary, winter maxima in Essex and Herts is given in the following table, followed by records from other counties.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Abridge	-	-	-	-	700	-
	Dagenham Chase	1000	-	-	138	397	2500
	Fairlop	500	500	500	-	500	500
	Hainault Forest	105	-	-	-	-	-
	Stapleford Abbots	-	-	-	700	-	1500
Herts	Amwell GP	300	-	-	4	-	-
	Coopers Green Lane	750	1250	-	-	600	-
	Great Amwell	720	-	-	-	-	-
	Oylers Farm	-	-	-	-	105	-
	Rye Meads SF	120	23	-	-	-	-
	Symondshyde Farm	1000	-	-	-	-	-
	Waterdale	116	-	-	-	-	-
Woodoaks Farm	200	28	-	-	-	800	

Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Feb 25th. Staines Res, up to 18 between Oct 25th and Nov 22nd. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 49 on Mar 28th and singles on Sept 2nd and Dec 7th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one on Aug 25th, one on Sept 21st, and 20 on Nov 5th, all flying over.

Bucks Denham CP, 30 on Dec 1st.

Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Jan 20th, five on Feb 10th, and 50+ on Dec 30th. Sutton at Hone, eight on Nov 8th.

Surrey Singles at Beddington SF on Apr 19th and Oct 3rd. Hersham GP, one on Dec 10th. Hersham SF, one on Dec 20th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Oct 3rd. Walton Res one on Jan 17th, 18 on Feb 28th.

0486 Grey Plover***Pluvialis squatarola***

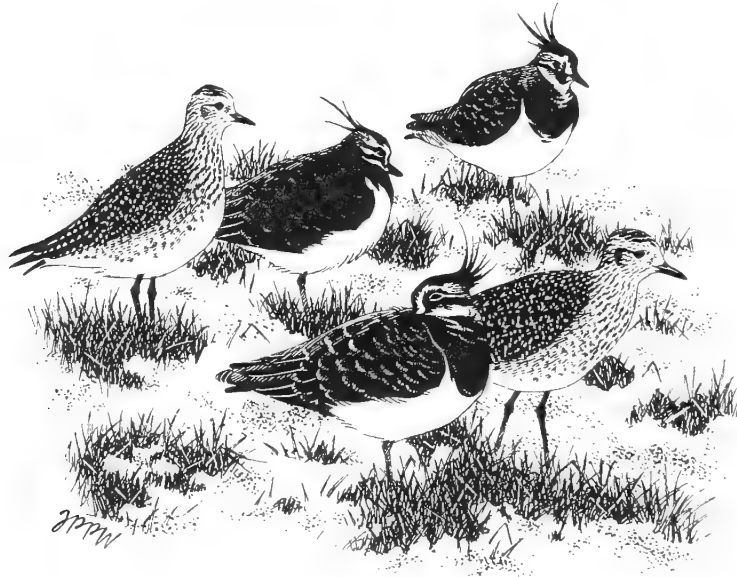
Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, and scarce winter visitor

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one on May 13th. Cornmill Meads, singles on Mar 30th and 31st, and from May 28th to 31st. Grays, two on Jan 1st, nine on Feb 1st, one on Nov 15th and four on Dec 9th. King George V Res, three NE on May 3rd. Rainham Marsh, singles on Sept 17th and Oct 6th, two on Oct 20th and one on Nov 3rd and 4th. Tilbury Docks, nine on Feb 1st. West Thurrock, one on Dec 28th. Wm Girling Res, one on Dec 19th.
- Herts Amwell GP, two N on May 13th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on May 30th. King George VI Res, two on Sept 15th. Perry Oaks SF, one on May 28th. Queen Mary Res, one on May 9th. Staines Res, singles on Aug 9th, Oct 3rd, 10th and 25th, four on Nov 2nd, singles on Nov 3rd and 7th. Stanwell Moor, singles on May 12th and 16th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one flew W on Sept 21st (ARD).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on Apr 18th.
- Kent Crossness, three on Nov 29th. Dartford Marsh, four on Jan 2nd, eight on Jan 26th, two on May 11th, singles on May 22nd, Aug 10th, Oct 20th, 26th, 28th and Dec 30th. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Jan 24th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Oct 12th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, one from May 9th to 11th, and five N on May 31st.

Mid-winter records were nearly all confined to the River Thames, with the ones and twos elsewhere mostly in May and October/November.

0493 Lapwing***Vanellus vanellus***

Status: widespread breeding species, common winter visitor and passage migrant.



The number of pairs reported breeding or holding territory during the year was about 140, a slight increase over the previous two years, although it is still clear that this species has real difficulty in maintaining a foothold within the London Area as a breeding species. One or two undisturbed sites have become very important in holding large concentrations of breeding birds, and if these were to be threatened, the

overall figure would be considerably less. Even so the reported success of these breeding birds seems to be extremely low. A total of 18 pairs was noted at the disused Kempton Park West Res, 12 or 13 pairs at Rainham Marsh (a marked improvement), 10 to 11 pairs at Chiswell Green in Herts, and c10 territories at Perry Oaks SF. Outside the breeding season some large flocks were a feature of the winter months, especially during January and December.

In the following summary, the largest counts in each county are given (with the month of occurrence in brackets), together with all Inner London records.

- Essex Abridge, 1,000 (Nov). Berwick Ponds, 500 (Dec). Dagenham Chase, 4,000 (Jan). Rainham Marsh, 1,000 (Nov and Dec). South Ockendon, 780 (Oct). Stapleford Abbots, 2,000 (Dec).
- Herts Rye Meads SF, 500 (Jan). West Hyde, 670 (Oct). Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, 2,000 (Jan).
- Middx Kempton Park Res, 2,250 (Jan). Shepperton GP, 1,500 (Feb). *Inner London*: Regent's Park, five on Mar 22nd, 14 on Nov 29th and two on Dec 8th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 500 (Feb). Sevenoaks Reserve, 479 (Dec). Sutton at Hone, 1,500 (Feb). Thamesmead, 560 (Dec).
- Surrey Hersham GP, 1,060 (Dec). Holmethorpe SP, 1,800 (Jan). Molesey GP, 1,000 (Dec). Queen Elizabeth II Res, 1,444 (Jan). Walton Res, 610 (Dec).

0496 Knot

Calidris canutus

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, eight on Sept 5th. Grays, one on Nov 15th.
- Middx King George VI Res, singles on Aug 29th and Sept 4th. Staines Res, singles on Aug 30th and 31st, Sept 6th, Nov 15th and Dec 3rd.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Sept 2nd.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, one on Oct 13th.

Apart from one flock of eight, only single birds were seen this year, all in the autumn and early winter.

0497 Sanderling

Calidris alba

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in winter.

- Essex Wm Girling Res, singles on July 19th, 24th and 29th, two from July 30th to Aug 2nd, singles on Aug 3rd, 15th, 22nd and 24th, five from Sept 2nd to 5th, two on 7th and one on 10th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on May 16th and 17th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on May 25th. King George VI Res, one on Sept 13th. Staines Res, singles on May 10th, and on Nov 2nd, 3rd and 7th.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on May 8th and 9th, five on 10th, singles on 19th and 24th, seven on 27th, six on 31st, two on June 6th and 14th, and one on June 15th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on May 21st, six on 23rd and three on 28th.
- Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, two on May 18th and also on 20th and 21st; two again on July 14th, 24th and 31st. Walton Res, two on July 24th flew to the previous site.

Most spring records were in the second half of May or early June, and apart from one or two sites were relatively scarce. A good number of autumn records between July to September, but again confined to very few localities.

0501 Little Stint *Calidris minutus*

Status: passage migrant in variable, but usually small numbers, rare in winter.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, two on Aug 27th and five on Sept 13th. Cornmill Meads, five on Sept 9th, two on 14th and 15th, three on 18th, five from 19th to 21st and three on 22nd. Dagenham Chase, one on Sept 13th. Fairlop Lake, in September, two on 6th, one on 8th, six on 13th and two on 14th. Hornchurch CP, one on Sept 4th and 6th. Purfleet, 30 on Sept 13th, presumably the same as at Rainham Marsh. Rainham Marsh, singles on Aug 26th, 28th and 29th, eight on Sept 3rd, with three on 5th, two on 7th, five on 9th, four on 11th, two on 12th, 30 on 13th, one on 18th, two on 19th and one on 21st; in October, five on 3rd, two on 5th and 6th, three on 9th and two on 10th, and a late bird on Nov 28th. Walthamstow Res, one on Nov 1st and 2nd. Wm Girling Res, two from Sept 4th to 7th, three between 9th and 12th, 12 on 13th, 15 on 14th, 14 on 15th, seven on 16th, two from 17th to 20th, and one on 16th.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Sept 3rd and 4th, on Sept 15th, and from Oct 2nd to 4th. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Sept 9th and 23rd and 24th.
- Middx Kempton Park Res, one on Sept 16th. King George VI Res, two on Sept 12th, one on 13th, two on 15th, and singles on Sept 17th, 19th and 20th. Perry Oaks SF, three on May 17th, and singles on Aug 30th and Sept 5th. Staines Res, three on Sept 13th, two on 14th, three on 15th, singles on 18th and 19th, Oct 8th, 20th, 23rd and 25th, and on Nov 7th, 8th, 11th and 15th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Sept 14th and from 22nd to 24th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on May 21st. In autumn, 14 on Sept 12th and six on 15th, 10 on Sept 23rd, three on Oct 6th and two on 21st. Erith Reach, four on Oct 11th and 12th. Sevenoaks Reserve, singles on Sept 23rd and 27th, four on 28th and one on 30th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, in September two on 3rd, 14th and 15th, three on 17th and one on 18th; also one on Dec 3rd. Beddington SF, reported daily between Sept 5th and 19th, with highest counts of eight on 8th, 10 on 9th

and 10th, 16 on 14th, 17 on 15th and 16th, 12 on 17th and 13 on 18th; further singles on Sept 23rd, and from Oct 7th to 11th.

After a poor year last year, this was the largest number of juveniles in September since the major invasion of 1996, and whilst numbers never reached the counts of that year, they were still very widespread and six localities held flocks in double figures. The middle ten days of September saw the main arrival. A few were still around in November, but there was only one in December.

0502 Temminck's Stint *Calidris teminckii*

Status: rare but annual passage migrant.

Middx Kempton Park Res, one on May 8th (KLP *et al.*)
Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, one on Oct 3rd (MC,PT *et al.*)

A fairly typical May record, but the autumn bird at Sevenoaks was the first here since 1962.

0509 Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, most regular in autumn.

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one flew W on Sept 12th (AJD) and five on 13th (MKD,SRP). Dagenham Chase, two on Sept 5th (HVn). Rainham Marsh, six on Sept 5th, and two on 12th and 13th (SC,MKD,SRP).
Herts Amwell GP, two on Sept 4th (BR). Beech Farm, six on Sept 8th (WH).
Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Sept 20th (JAS).
Kent Dartford Marsh, four on Sept 12th (DW). Thamesmead, one on Sept 3rd (AJM).
Surrey Beddington SF, three on Sept 8th and 9th, and two on 10th and 11th (BBR).

Although quite good numbers of juveniles were reported elsewhere in the country, relatively few of these reached the London Area, where the highest count was only six, and birds were scarce away from the Lower Thames.

0512 Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The usual wintering flocks were present along both banks of the Lower Thames at either end of the year, but numbers remained at a fairly low level, and apart from one count of around 4,000 birds at Tilbury Docks in February, never reached half that number at any other site. In the following table, monthly maxima is given for the main sites in Essex and Kent.

Lower Thames counts

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Barking Bay/Marsh	-	280	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1381
	Beckton	250	-	96	-	-	-	-	-	12	600
	Creekmouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110
	Grays	-	1500	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	600
	Rainham Marsh	200	-	-	-	24	100	13	12	56	1000
	Tilbury Docks	-	4000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	West Thurrock	-	100	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent	Crossness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	750
	Dartford Marsh	200	210	2	5	-	40	20	13	1	2
	Erith Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	50
	Stone Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	49	-
	Swanscombe Marsh	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Away from the Thames, a summary of records is given in the table below which gives peak monthly counts for those localities with more than just the odd record of one or two birds.

Inland counts

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Wm Girling Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	22	3	-	1	-
Middx	Perry Oaks SF	1	-	15	2	16	1	6	5	-	-	-	-
	Staines Res	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	3	1	11	244	86
Surrey	Barn Elms WWT	-	-	-	2	-	8	1	6	1	1	-	4
	Beddington SF	-	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	3	2
	Hersham GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	70
	Island Barn Res	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	23
	QE II Res	42	12	1	1	3	5	4	2	2	-	5	60
	Walton Res	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	-	-	-	20	40

There were few wintering birds present at the beginning of the year, but complete drainage of the south basin at Staines Res in late October saw a rapid build-up of the Dunlin flock, as has happened often in past years, and numbers were very high in November. Many of the same birds must have been involved in the counts from sites in the Walton area during December, especially with the presence of a Peregrine at Staines during this period.

0517 Ruff***Philomachus pugnax***

Status: regular passage migrant, now rare winter visitor.

The only records during the first two months of the year were of three in Surrey. A small influx of spring migrants was noted between Mar 21st and 31st at five sites, and included up to seven at Beddington SF, six at Cornmill Meads and five at Perry Oaks SF. There was only one record in April and three records between May 2nd and 5th. A male bird was noted throughout the summer months at Rainham Marsh.



ABOVE: *Black-necked Grebes at Hilfield Park Res, 1998 (Gary Elton)*

BELOW: *Pintail at Beckton Outfall, January 1998 (Dominic Mitchell)*





ABOVE: *Spotted Crake* at Cornmill Meadows, October 1998 (Andrew Middleton)

BELOW: *Little Stint* and *Dunlin* at Queen Mother Res. September 1998 (John Simpson)



The majority of sightings were during the autumn months from late August to October, when this species became quite widespread, but most counts were of low numbers, apart from up to 23 at Rainham Marsh. The main autumn influx was in the first half of September. Few were noted after early October, and by December the only birds remaining were three at Rainham Marsh.

All records are given, but summarised for one or two localities.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, four on Sept 14th. Cornmill Meads, two on Mar 23rd, six on Mar 24th, one from 30th to Apr 2nd, and one from Sept 14th to 20th. Dagenham Chase, one on Sept 28th. Hornchurch CP, three on Sept 6th and one on 11th. King George V Res, one on Nov 10th, 16th and 17th. Purfleet, six on Aug 27th, and nine on Aug 30th. Rainham Marsh, a male summered at this locality, but there was no breeding attempt as far as is known; one on July 2nd, three on July 29th, and one on Aug 6th and 8th, and then regularly from Aug 25th to Oct 3rd, with an influx of up to 23 (on Sept 2nd) in early September. In December one on 3rd and 4th, and three on 19th. Sewardstone, one or two between Mar 24th and 27th. Walthamstow Res, one on Aug 22nd or 23rd. Wm Girling Res, two on Sept 13th.
- Herts Rye Meads, singles on May 2nd and Aug 28th. Tyttenhanger GP, one from Sept 13th to 15th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Sept 13th. Kempton Park Res, one on Sept 3rd, 4th and 6th. King George VI Res, singles on six dates, Aug 29th to Sept 26th, and two on Sept 12th. Perry Oaks SF, five on Mar 21st, one on May 5th, and in autumn, noted between Aug 27th and Sept 10th, maximum of six on Sept 6th. Staines Moor, one on May 2nd. Staines Res, singles on five dates between Sept 3rd and 20th.
- Bucks Colnbrook, two on Sept 13th. Horton GP, one on Aug 20th. Queen Mother Res, one on Sept 20th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one from Nov 23rd to 26th. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Mar 22nd.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, two on Aug 11th, three on Sept 5th, four from Sept 7th to 23rd, with five on Sept 21st. Beddington SF, seven on Mar 21st, four on 22nd, and one from Mar 25th to 30th, two on Apr 11th and one on May 2nd; autumn records between Aug 20th and Oct 17th, maxima of five from Sept 3rd to 5th, Oct 3rd and 17th. Fieldcommon Lane, Hersham, two on Feb 3rd. Hersham GP, one on Dec 24th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, two on Jan 11th and 23rd.

0518 Jack Snipe

Lymnocypryes minimus

Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

Present during seven months of the year, but numbers were low during both winter periods. The highest count was nine in Kent in early April, but apart from this no more than three were seen together at the beginning of the year. The last bird was seen on Apr 19th. The first autumn migrant

appeared on Oct 4th but only ones or twos were seen before the end of the year. All records are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, singles on Feb 2nd and Apr 4th. Harold Wood SF, two on Jan 26th and one from Feb 2nd to Mar 1st. Rainham Marsh, one on Oct 9th.
- Herts Amwell GP, two on Jan 4th, singles on Jan 7th and 8th, three on Jan 11th, two on Feb 17th, three on Feb 22nd, two on Mar 1st, and singles on Oct 25th and Dec 27th. Rye Meads SF, singles on Oct 7th, 10th, 17th, Dec 12th and 28th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Feb 3rd, singles on Feb 4th, 24th, Mar 10th, Oct 22nd and 24th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, three on Feb 20th. Hounslow Heath, two on Jan 31st, three on Mar 6th, two on Mar 7th and 9th, one on Mar 28th, two on Nov 21st and one on Dec 17th. Perry Oaks SF, two on Jan 24th, singles on Mar 14th and Nov 21st. Pinner Park Farm, one on Dec 10th. Rammey Marsh, one on Jan 22nd. The Causeway NR, one on Dec 20th.
- Bucks Horton GP, singles on Oct 13th, Nov 10th and 16th, and three on Dec 3rd.
- Kent Erith Marsh, two on Nov 29th and one on Dec 5th. Sevenoaks Reserve, two on Feb 15th, and singles on Dec 2nd and 6th. Swanscombe Marsh, two on Jan 24th and nine on Apr 7th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, singles on Oct 4th, 25th, Dec 4th, 8th and 28th. Beddington SF, singles on Mar 15th, Oct 7th and Dec 20th. Chertsey Meads, one on Nov 26th. Hersham GP, one on Dec 29th. Holmethorpe SP, singles on Jan 4th and 24th, Apr 19th and two on Feb 22nd. Horton CP, one from Dec 26th to 30th. South Norwood CP, one on Feb 11th.

0519 Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, scarce breeder.

In the following summary a selection of the higher counts in each sector are given, together with all breeding season records. Winter numbers were low at both ends of the year, with only two sites, one in Kent and one in Surrey, holding more than 100 birds at any time. Only two or three pairs were present in the breeding season, and breeding was proved in the case of one pair only.

- Essex Cornmill Meads, 14 on Mar 27th and 35 on Oct 4th. Hall Marsh, 18 on Jan 1st. Harold Wood SF, 16 on Mar 8th. Rainham Marsh, one or two birds summered; 30 on Aug 17th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 15 on Feb 17th, Oct 25th and Dec 27th. Rye Meads SF, two pairs present in summer, and at least one pair bred: 15 on Oct 7th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, 28 on Feb 20th. Kempton Park Res, 20 on Jan 19th. Staines Moor, 30 on Nov 23rd.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 125 in January and February. Erith Marsh, 65 on Jan 1st, 51 on Nov 29th, and 56 on Dec 1st. Swanscombe Marsh, 37 on Mar 1st.

Surrey Barn Elms WWT, 31 on Sept 12th. Beddington SF, up to 17 in August. Hersham GP, 36 on Feb 2nd, 74 on Apr 9th, 109 on Nov 29th and 142 on Dec 24th. South Norwood CP, 14 on Jan 29th.

0529 Woodcock***Scolopax rusticola***

Status: localised breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The following table gives details of all sightings of wintering and passage birds during the year.

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Sightings	10	5	12	2	1	24	6
Birds	11	5	13	2	1	32	6

Records follow the usual pattern, with fairly widespread sightings in the winter when birds are fairly elusive, but with migrant peaks both in March and especially November. The highest count was of seven at Thornden Park on Nov 1st, but most birds in November were noted between 12th and 24th. The only Inner London record during the year was of one at Regent's Park on Nov 21st (ARD).

All records of breeding birds are given under counties below.

Essex Epping Forest, four roding in the Long Running/Jack's Hill area between March and June, and up to 12 birds in the Monks Wood/Jack's Hill area on June 20th. Fairmead Bottom/Plain, one on Apr 28th.

Herts Broxbourne Woods, two roding in May and June.

Middx Ruislip Lido area, one roding on May 16th. Stanmore CP, one roding on Apr 25th and June 1st.

Surrey Limpsfield Chart, up to three roding in May. Nower Wood, "present in breeding season".

0532 Black-tailed Godwit***Limosa limosa***

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable but increasing numbers.

All records are given except for some Thames-side sites, where monthly maxima are given.

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 11 on Aug 8th, one from Nov 1st to 21st, two on Nov 23rd, and one on Dec 18th. Beckton, one on Aug 8th. Essex Filter Beds, five on Aug 30th. Grays, 144 on Feb 1st, 82 on Nov 28th, 122 on Dec 9th. Rainham Marsh, one on June 24th and 25th and six on 26th; up to 11 in July; singles on Aug 30th, Nov 28th, Dec 4th and 16th. Walthamstow Res, five flew N on Aug 15th. West Thurrock, five on Jan 24th, 68 on Feb 8th and 40 on Mar 1st, 82 on Nov 28th and 29 on Dec 28th. Wm Girling Res, one flew N on Aug 15th.

- Middx Middlesex Filter Beds, one on Aug 2nd. Staines Moor, one on May 2nd. Staines Res, one on Aug 4th, three on 8th, and on Aug 16th three parties of: 11 flying E, four flying SE, and 10 flying over. Stanwell Moor, two flew E at 10.15 on Aug 16th.
- Kent Crossness, one on Nov 29th. Dartford Marsh, singles on Nov 1st and Dec 26th. Swanscombe Marsh, 11 on Mar 22nd.
- Surrey Ashtead, one heard flying N at 21.30 on May 16th. Barn Elms WWT, one on Aug 15th. Beddington SF, one flew SE on Oct 9th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, one flew over on July 9th, and six flew E on Aug 2nd. Walton Res, 11 flew N on Apr 14th.

The impressive flocks found along the Essex side of the Lower Thames estuary within the London Area boundary are previously unknown, and represents a shift well upriver of the increasing numbers wintering in the Thames/Medway/Swale complex as a whole. In fact, wintering Black-tailed Godwits have increased massively around British coastlines in the last ten years. As with inland sites in London, most reports previously along the river were of small parties during the main migration seasons (which too have shown increasing numbers recently), so this species is certainly on a high at the moment, and by far the commonest of the godwit species in the London Area.

0534 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, scarce in winter.

- Essex Fishers Green, six flew N on May 3rd (WR). Rainham Marsh, three on May 12th (SRP) and 14th (KB).
- Middx Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one flew NE on May 3rd (RMC,GJW).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Mar 22nd (DMr), two on Mar 23rd (DW), one on May 8th (AJM), three from May 12th to 14th (DW,BEW), and one on Sept 2nd (GBy).
- Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Apr 30th, and one flew N on May 7th (DMH).

Another year in which this formerly regular migrant was remarkably scarce, with all but one of the year's eleven sightings in the spring.

0538 Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Status: regular passage migrant.

- Essex Cornmill Meads, two on May 12th. Grays, singles on Apr 25th, May 3rd, and July 22nd. Rainham Marsh, singles on Apr 7th and 17th; two on May 12th and 13th; three on July 24th and one on July 31st. Silvertown, one on Mar 9th. Wm Girling Res, singles on Aug 1st and 9th.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, four on May 21st. Rye Meads, four on July 29th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Apr 23rd.

- Middx King George VI Res, one on Apr 25th. Staines Moor, one on Apr 22nd and two on May 12th. Staines Res, singles on Apr 22nd and 23rd; two on 26th; one on Aug 20th. Stanwell Moor, one on Apr 26th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, three on Apr 26th and May 5th.
- Surrey Epsom Common, one on May 3rd. Godstone, two on Apr 30th. Island Barn Res, one on Apr 17th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, two on Apr 22nd, singles on 23rd, 24th, 25th, 27th and two on 29th; singles on May 19th and 21st; two on July 20th, nine on 21st and one on 25th. South Norwood Lake, one on July 21st. Walton Res, two on May 18th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Apr 21st, seven on 25th; two on May 9th and one on 22nd; two on Aug 4th. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Apr 25th.

All but a handful of birds appeared during the main passage periods but numbers were relatively low. In spring, there was a remarkably early record at Silvertown on Mar 9th, but all remaining birds were in April and May, with a total of about 52 birds in all; the largest flock was seven birds. Some 23 birds were noted in autumn, between July 20th and Aug 20th, and apart from one flock of nine, no counts exceeded three.

0541 Curlew***Numenius arquata***

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

Small numbers were again noted along the Lower Thames, mostly in the winter months, and the main sites are shown in the following table, which gives monthly maxima for each locality.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Barking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
	Rainham Marsh	10	14	4	-	-	-	-	2	1	9	9	12
	West Thurrock	3	-	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Kent	Dartford Marsh	11	5	-	1	-	4	1	-	-	1	1	-

Away from the Thames, where the usual pattern of occurrence is very different, all sightings are plotted in the following table, which gives the number of sightings and birds on a month by month basis.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	-	-	4	8	2	7	2	5	2	1	4	1
Bird/days	-	-	9	8	2	7	2	21	3	1	6	1

There were suprisingly no records during the first two months of the year and fewer in spring and summer than in 1997. However, there were some good sized flocks noted in August. Highest counts were at Chingford (nine on Aug 9th), Queen Mother Res (seven on Aug 27th), Staines Res (10 on Aug 28th) and Tyttenhanger GP (19 on Aug 27th).

0545 Spotted Redshank***Tringa erythropus***

Status: scarce passage migrant.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, two on June 20th (MKD) and one on June 24th and 25th (KB), with further singles on Aug 6th and Oct 1st (PS).
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one on Aug 31st (LM).
- Middx King George VI Res, one on Sept 26th (DJM,PN). Perry Oaks SF, a very long staying individual, an adult, on many dates between Aug 2nd and Sept 10th (CL,DJM,PN *et al*). Stanwell Moor, a juvenile on Aug 30th (DJM,PN).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Mar 13th (DW).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one from May 1st to 4th (BBR). South Norwood CP, one on May 3rd (JBd).

Six birds between March and June and only five in the autumn months, so this species remains relatively scarce in the London Area.

0546 Redshank***Tringa totanus***

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, but decreasing breeder.

The following table gives monthly maxima at selected sites along the Lower Thames.

		<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Essex	Barking Bay	25	43	68	92	121	60
	Beckton	50	60	49	-	83	83
	Grays	-	200	-	-	136	-
	Rainham	150	120	-	100	200	200
	West Thurrock	-	100	-	-	-	175
Kent	Crossness	-	-	-	38	50	17
	Dartford Marsh	100	50	-	9	7	6
	Erith Reach	-	-	-	20	106	-
	Swanscombe Marsh	73	-	30	-	-	-
	Thames Barrier Area	5	11	-	-	6	12

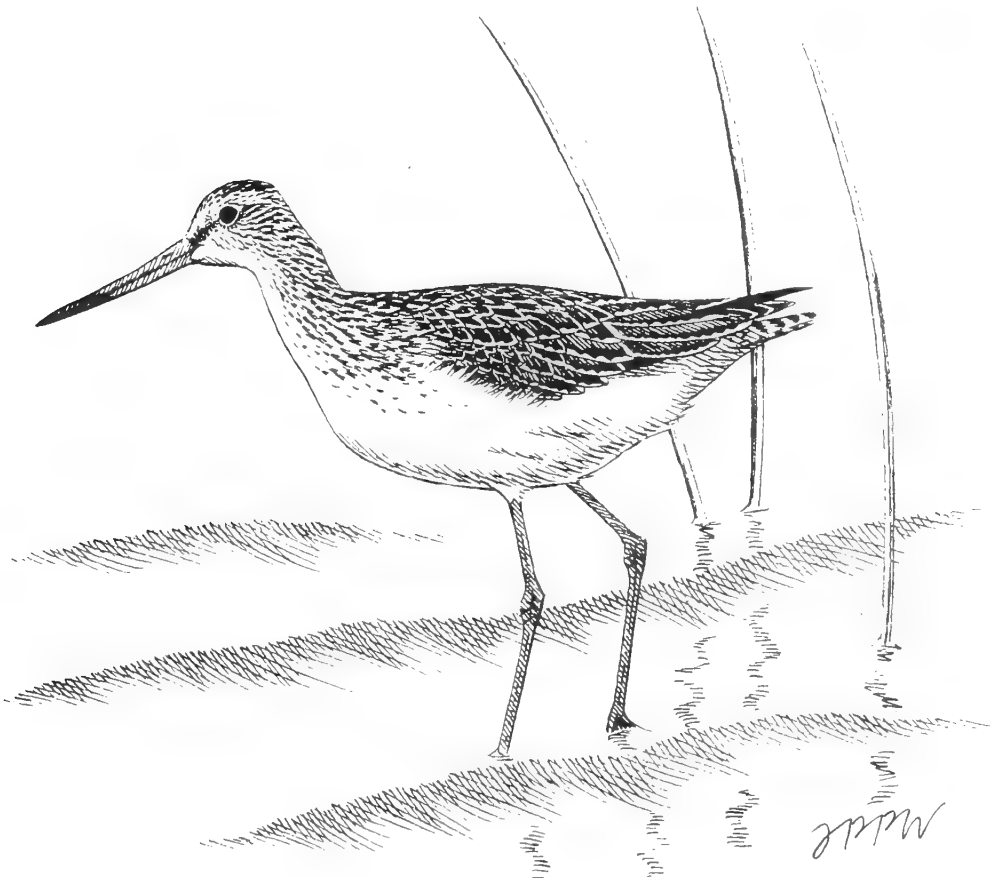
Also of note were 74 at Stone Marsh (Kent) on Nov 8th. All breeding season records are given below together with the highest counts away from the River Thames.

- Essex Beckton, a pair displaying in late February. Belhus Woods CP, four pairs attempted to breed. Hall Marsh, one pair attempted to breed. Hornchurch CP, three pairs attempted to breed but were flooded out. Rainham Marsh, 16 pairs bred, at least six pairs up on last year, with good numbers of juveniles present in July and August.
- Herts Amwell GP, one pair raised three young, seven on Nov 7th. Rye Meads SF, one pair bred. Tyttenhanger GP, four on Apr 4th.

- Middx Kempton Park Res, five pairs raised ten young; ten in January and June. King George VI Res, nine seen in February, November and December. Perry Oaks SF, 20 in May. Staines Res, 30 in November.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, singles on five dates between May 9th and June 22nd with two on May 23rd.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, several birds displaying on Apr 7th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, one pair attempted to breed but was unsuccessful, eight on Apr 25th. Beddington SF, nine in April. Island Barn Res, 15 in December. Queen Elizabeth II Res, ten in January. Walton Res, 11 in January and December.

0548 Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

Status: common passage migrant, rare in winter.



The first bird of the year was at Fairlop on Apr 11th and was the vanguard of what proved to be a rather poor spring passage, with records coming from 13 sites, of which only six had more than one bird, the highlight being 11 at Perry Oaks SF on the unusual date of June 1st. Return passage began with a single bird at Hall Marsh (Essex) on June 28th and ended with one at Stone Marsh (Kent) on Oct 11th. Birds were reported from a total of 29 sites but numbers rarely exceeded four. Rainham Marsh, Perry Oaks SF and Beddington SF were the only sites to record double figures with maximum counts of 16, 11 and ten respectively. Counts of three or more or county maxima if lower are listed below.

- Essex Barking Bay, three on Aug 8th. Berwick Ponds, six on Aug 23rd. Cornmill Meads, eight on Aug 10th. Fishers Green, five flew N on Aug 9th. Hornchurch CP, three on Aug 22nd and 23rd. Rainham Marsh, from Apr 25th to Oct 6th including 16 on Aug 22nd and Sept 11th. Walthamstow Res, three from Aug 20th to 30th. Wm Girling Res, four from Sept 5th to 7th and 11th to 13th.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on May 30th and Oct 8th. Beech Farm, one on Sept 8th. Hilfield Park Res, overflying singles on Aug 8th and 31st.
- Middx King George VI Res, four on Sept 3rd, 12th, 15th and 19th, five on Sept 17th. Perry Oaks SF, 11 on June 1st, eight on Aug 29th and six on Sept 6th. Staines Res, four on Sept 12th. Stanwell Moor, nine on Aug 31st, six on Sept 4th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, two on Aug 22nd.
- Kent Crayford Marsh, three on Sept 20th. Dartford Marsh, three flew W on Sept 12th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, four on Sept 4th. Beddington SF, monthly maxima of four in May, nine in August and ten in September. Queen Elizabeth II Res, eight on Aug 19th, four on Aug 20th, 21st and Sept 3rd. Walton Res, three on Aug 20th.

0551 Lesser Yellowlegs***Tringa flavipes***

Status: rare vagrant from the Nearctic.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, an adult on Aug 26th and 27th (SC *et al*).

This is only the seventh record for London and the first in the Essex sector, the last was at Staines Res from Aug 21st to Sept 8th 1990. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

0553 Green Sandpiper***Tringa ochropus***

Status: widespread winter visitor and passage migrant, commonest in autumn.

Birds were reported from at least 53 sites during the year. There was a small but noticeable spring passage in April with birds reaching double figures at only one site, Beddington SF, where one bird was observed displaying and singing on Apr 10th. Return passage began in late June and peaked around Aug 9th. The table below lists every site that recorded a minimum of four birds in any given month. An unusual record came from Dagenham Chase (Essex) where a bird with a white nape patch was seen on Aug 29th

		<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
Essex	Berwick Ponds	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	5	-	-	-
	Cornmill Meads	-	-	1	1	-	1	4	4	2	-	-	-
	Fairlop Lake/Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	3	-	-	-
	Hall Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	7	-	-	-
	KG V Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	3
	Rainham Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	2	17	25	6	2	2	1
	Wm Girling Res	5	2	5	2	-	-	4	6	4	5	1	1
Herts	Amwell GP	1	-	1	3	-	1	-	6	3	-	-	-
	Rye House Marsh	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-
	Rye Meads SF	4	5	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middx	Perry Oaks SF	7	-	6	2	1	1	18	29	19	5	-	-
	Staines Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	3	1
Bucks	Horton GP	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	6
Kent	Dartford Marsh	2	1	6	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	3	3
	Sevenoaks Reserve	1	1	-	-	-	2	4	4	2	1	2	1
Surrey	Beddington SF	4	6	6	10	2	5	15	20	6	11	10	10
	Island Barn Res	-	1	3	4	-	-	-	1	3	6	6	1
	Walton Res	1	1	4	4	-	-	1	3	4	1	1	-

During the winter months, January/February and November/December, birds were recorded from a total of 32 sites with Beddington SF the premier locality for the seventh consecutive year.

0554 Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Status: uncommon passage migrant.

- Essex Cornmill Meads, one from May 11th to 14th (PAB,MKD,WR), one on Sept 9th (ELBF,WR,PJV) and one on Sept 12th (ELBF). Dagenham Chase, one on June 3rd (KB). Fairlop Lake, a juvenile from Sept 5th to 11th (AAB). Hall Marsh, a juvenile on Sept 6th (PAC). Hornchurch CP, one from Sept 4th to 6th and one on Sept 11th (KB,MKD,DMn,SRP). Rainham Marsh, singles on May 13th, 15th and 16th, 23rd and 25th; July 25th; Aug 15th, 17th and 22nd; Oct 3rd to 5th, 9th, 15th and 17th (mo).
- Herts Amwell GP, one from Sept 3rd to 5th (BR,GJW). Cheshunt GP, one on Sept 1st. Radlett, one from May 9th to 11th, another from May 14th to 17th with a third on 16th and 17th (LM). Rye Meads SF, two on Sept 5th and one on Sept 12th (GJW).
- Middx King George VI Res, one on Aug 30th (SC). Perry Oaks SF, singles on Aug 2nd, 12th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 22nd and 30th; Sept 6th and 10th with two on 8th (CL,AVM,DJM,PN). Staines Res, one on Aug 30th and Aug 31st (DJM,PN,KLP). Stanwell Moor, one on May 23rd (DJM).
- Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, two on Aug 8th and 9th (PTr,MDN).
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles from May 15th to 18th; July 29th; Aug 31st; and Sept 22nd and 23rd (DAC,JRL,BBR). Wimbledon Common, one flushed by a dog from Kingsmere on Aug 23rd (DWs).

At least 33 birds were recorded from 15 sites during the year with almost all records relating to single birds, the exceptions being Perry Oaks SF with two on Sept 8th and Sevenoaks Reserve with two on Aug 8th and 9th. Spring passage was poor with as few as five birds at four sites between May 11th and June 3rd. Autumn passage was more pronounced with at least 28 birds recorded between July 25th and Oct 17th.

0556 Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

Spring passage was well under way by Apr 22nd with birds moving through in a steady stream until May 23rd when numbers began to drop off. Fourteen birds at Hilfield Park Res on May 20th was easily the highest count, no other location recorded double figures. Return passage began in late June and produced good counts at favoured sites in July and August, with 42 along the River Darent at Dartford on Aug 4th the highlight. The following table lists monthly maxima for the passage periods from the best sites in each sector.

		<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>
Essex	Beckton	1	-	4	17	9	2
	Cornmill Meads	1	-	8	16	7	1
	Rainham Marsh	-	2	8	21	2	5
	Walthamstow Res	3	7	11	11	10	-
	William Girling Res	1	-	25+	30+	5	6
Herts	Hilfield Park Res	1	14	6	-	12	-
Middx	Brent Reservoir	3	5	4	5	4	-
	King George VI Res	1	5	9	11	4	-
	Perry Oaks SF	1	2	3	14	-	1
	Queen Mary Res	-	2	-	17	8	2
	Staines Res	1	-	1	7	4	2
	Wraysbury Res	2	4	8	15	2	-
	Dartford Marsh	1	3	8	42	3	-
Kent	Sevenoaks Reserve	2	1	3	4	5	1
	Barn Elms WWT	2	3	3	9	4	1
Surrey	Beddington SF	1	5	4	8	3	1
	QE II Res	1	5	7	9	6	1
	Walton Res	1	1	13	10	3	-

Several birds were recorded in the winter months - these are listed below together with records from Inner London.

Essex Banbury Res, singles on Nov 25th, Dec 6th and from Dec 13th until the end of the year. King George V Res, one from Jan 6th to Apr 13th. Rainham Marsh, one on Jan 22nd and 25th, one from Nov 5th until the end of the year, two on Nov 20th, 21st and 30th. Walthamstow Res, one seen on six dates between Nov 8th and Dec 29th. Wm Girling Res, one on Nov 23rd.

- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Jan 6th. Queen Mary Res, one on Nov 6th and 25th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, singles on Apr 29th, May 11th and 14th, July 20th, 25th and 27th, Aug 10th and Sept 21st with two on May 22nd and July 28th (ARD,DJ).
- Bucks Horton GP, one on Feb 2nd.
- Kent Greenwich Park, one on Jan 19th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, one throughout January and February with two on Feb 26th, one in November and December. Hersham GP, two on Nov 11th. Island Barn Res, one from Dec 11th until the end of the year. Walton Res, one on Dec 7th. *Inner London*: Kennington, one on May 21st (AGm). Surrey Docks, one at the end of July (TSt).

0561 Turnstone***Arenaria interpres***

Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

- Essex Beckton, two on Dec 27th and one from Dec 28th to 31st. Grays, one on Jan 2nd, four on Jan 24th, five on Feb 1st, 11 on Feb 8th, 14 on March 1st, ten on Apr 4th, 18 on May 3rd, seven in August, nine on Oct 28th, seven on Nov 15th and 28th, one on Nov 11th, two on Dec 12th and two on Dec 28th. Rainham Marsh, one on May 14th. Wm Girling Res, one on July 30th and 31st, two juveniles from Aug 5th to 9th, two on Sept 13th and 14th.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 21st and 22nd.
- Middx King George VI Res, two on May 2nd, 5th and 8th. Perry Oaks SF, one on May 9th and three on May 13th. Staines Res, three on May 9th, two on May 10th, two on May 17th, one on July 19th and 20th, three on Aug 2nd, two on Aug 4th, one on Aug 7th and 9th, one on Aug 16th, one on Sept 13th, two from Sept 18th to 20th and one on Sept 26th and 27th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on May 13th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Aug 25th. Swanscombe Marsh, two on Jan 24th, 14 on Mar 1st, ten on Apr 7th and 13 on Apr 25th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 29th, one on May 3rd and two on Sept 16th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, two on May 9th and two on May 10th, at least one of which was a different bird, singles on July 19th, 22nd, 23rd and 30th.

Records of wintering birds came from the usual sites along the Lower Thames with some good counts at Grays in February and March. Spring passage was reported from nine sites between Apr 7th and May 17th with 18 at Grays on May 3rd and 13 at Swanscombe Marsh on Apr 25th the highlights. Return passage got under way with a single bird on July 19th at Staines Res where small numbers, three or less, were reported on several dates until Sept 27th. Only four other sites held birds during the autumn with nine at Grays on Oct 28th the best count.

0564 Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Status: rare passage migrant.

Middx King George VI Res, a juvenile on Oct 3rd and 4th also visited Staines Res on the latter date. (DJM,PN, *et al*).

The 19th London record and the sixth in the last seven years.

0566 Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor

Essex Walthamstow Res, a first-winter bird on Jan 2nd was present from 11.00 to 12.50 before flying off SE (PL *et al*).

The 22nd London record, although only the fourth since 1987.

0567 Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Status: regular, but scarce, autumn migrant; rare in spring and summer

Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, a juvenile present all day on Aug 19th, was seen again on Aug 20th from 05.55 until 09.20; it was last seen flying NW over nearby Molesey Heath at 11.30 (DMH *et al*).

Just one record is well below the average annual total, although it was the first bird for many years to stay for more than just a few hours and the first to stay for more than one day since one at Queen Mary Res in 1986; the last completely blank year was in 1973.

Skua sp***Stercorarius sp***

Essex Barking Bay, one on Sept 27th (GH), was either Arctic or Pomarine.

1994 Correction

Essex King George V Res, one flew north on May 26th showing a large square tail projection and was considered by the observer to be a Pomarine (AMn). Three birds on Sept 1st, two flew S and a third dip-feeding with terns and gulls for an hour (AMn). The last bird was considered to be a Long-tailed Skua by the observer.

0569 Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor

Surrey Beddington SF, one, probably an immature, arrived in NNW winds on Sept 28th and settled briefly on the lake at 11.45, it had gone by 12.00 (PA).

The 24th London record and the first since 1996, eight out of the last nine records have been in September - the peak month for this species.

0575 Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Status: regular but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant.

Another good year with about 69 different birds recorded during the year, with 17 'new' birds (i.e. those born during 1998) recorded from July onwards.

This tentative total is almost identical to 1997 and is the second best year ever, following on from the 79 recorded in 1995. It is perhaps worth noting, given the sightings of up to six birds together in recent years, that no more than two birds were seen together during the year. The peak months were January and March with 16 birds each, although most of the records in the latter month related to passage birds. All records are given, but summarised at key localities.

- Essex Barking Bay, one from Sept 1st to Oct 10th, two on Sept 14th. Beckton, two on Mar 14th and one on Oct 10th. Connaught Water, one on Feb 2nd. Fairlop Lake, singles on Aug 15th, Oct 3rd and 4th. Fishers Green, singles on Oct 11th, 15th, Nov 23rd and Dec 4th. Grays, one on May 3rd was injured. Nazeing GP, one on Jan 19th and 20th and one on Nov 30th. Rainham Marsh, at least two birds from Jan 1st to Mar 20th, one on June 25th, two on Dec 5th and one on 8th. Walthamstow Filter Beds, one intermittently from Nov 22nd to Dec 29th. Wanstead Flats, singles on Jan 1st and Dec 8th. Wm Girling Res, singles (3 birds) on Feb 23rd, Mar 1st, two on Mar 9th, one on July 28th and one Nov 24th and Dec 7th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Oct 18th. Hilfield Park Res, up to three birds in the roost during the first-winter period and up to three during the second-winter period. Rye Meads, one on May 14th and two on July 30th.
- Middx Brent Res, two on Aug 17th, another on Sept 3rd and 5th. Headstone, one on Mar 7th. Kempton Park Res, singles (2 birds) from Dec 15th to 29th. Pinner Park Farm, one on Mar 14th. Shepperton GP, one on Jan 17th, two on Feb 28th, singles on Mar 7th and Nov 7th. Stanwell Moor, one on Feb 14th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one intermittently from Dec 1st to 17th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Jan 22nd, then singles on 15 dates between Jan 25th and Apr 6th involving at least three birds, singles on July 26th and Sept 26th.
- Kent Crayford, one on Mar 8th. Crayford Marsh, singles (2 birds) on Jan 13th, 15th, 18th and 31st. Crossness, one on Sept 1st. Erith Reach, two on Mar 8th. Hall Place Gardens, one on Feb 28th. Hoblingwell Wood, one on Mar 7th. Ruxley GP, one on Nov 15th. Sevenoaks Reserve, singles on Jan 12th, 14th, Feb 18th and Nov 29th.
- Surrey Addlestone, singles on Apr 24th, Oct 15th and Dec 14th and 15th. Beddington SF, singles (2 birds) on Jan 4th, 13th and Mar 8th; then singles (five birds) intermittently between July 11th and Dec 31st. Ewell, one on

Mar 8th. Island Barn Res, singles on Mar 9th and Oct 19th. Limpsfield, one on Jan 9th. Moorhouse, one on Dec 5th and 6th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, singles on 13 dates (3 birds) from Jan 4th to Mar 29th; two on July 9th, then singles on nine dates (4 birds) from Sept 9th to Dec 6th, with two on Nov 15th. South Norwood CP, one on Sept 15th.

0578 Little Gull

Larus minutus

Status: regular passage migrant, occasional in summer and winter

With about 152 birds being seen it was, in terms of numbers at least, the poorest year since 1992 (when there were 92 birds), although the totals were close to the averages of three out of the last four years. As usual there was a western bias to the records, but for once Staines had a poor year; the largest flock was an impressive 30 at Queen Elizabeth II Res in October. Spring passage was subdued with about 38 birds at 12 sites from March to May, with a clear peak in April. Autumn passage was much more pronounced with 97 birds at 15 sites from July to October, with a clear peak in October (largely due to two large counts at Queen Elizabeth II Res). There were no records from Inner London. The table below shows the approximate number of birds that have occurred in London during the last 10 years.

1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
307	150	145	92	201	174	444	172	170	152

The first bird of the year was at Bedfont Lakes CP on January 17th, followed by another at Dartford Marsh on 26th. There were no further sightings until March 29th when four birds arrived at Fishers Green, with further singles at Yiewsley Lake on 30th and at Old Slade Lakes on 31st. A small flurry of birds arrived on April 4th with five birds at Banbury Res, four at Beckton, and two each at Brent Res and Broadwater. Hilfield Park Res had four the next day, with three on 6th, then singles followed on 7th at Girling Res, 10th at King George VI Res, 22nd at Queen Elizabeth II Res, 28th at Girling Res, 29th at Rye Meads and 30th at King George V Res. May also started with a small arrival of birds with five at King George V Res on 1st (with one until 4th) and then one at Hilfield Park Res on 2nd but, rather surprisingly, this concluded a rather disappointing spring passage.

The first blank summer for many years was followed by the first autumn migrant at Beckton on July 4th, with further singles at Beddington SF on 14th and Perry Oaks SF and Staines Res on 18th. Singles at Perry Oaks and Staines Res on August 2nd and 4th respectively, got the month underway, but no further records followed until one at Queen Mother Res on 18th, which heralded a modest passage of birds through the Area during the rest of the month with up to two birds at Staines Res and Crossness and five at Barking Bay. About 17 birds were seen in September, but sightings were widely spread across ten sites, with peaks

of two at Barking Bay/ Thamesmead on 2nd, two at Queen Mother on 4th, two at King George V Res on 5th and three at Staines Res on 7th. An impressive flock of nine birds flew SE over Queen Elizabeth II Res on October 1st, followed by singles at King George VI Res and Staines Res on 3rd. Then a remarkable flock of 30 birds flew south over Queen Elizabeth II on 6th. Four further records followed, with the best count being three at Staines Res on 31st. November got off to a good start with records from five sites on 1st, including three each at Island Barn Res and Staines Res. One more at the latter site on 7th and three at Queen Elizabeth on 8th concluded the month's sightings. Just two records in December involved singles at Beckton on 19th and Beddington on 20th. The table below shows the distribution of birds by month and county.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Essex	-	-	4	14	5	-	1	7	7	-	-	1
Herts	-	-	-	8	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Middx	1	-	-	6	-	-	2	9	11	5	5	-
Bucks	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Kent	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-
Surrey	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	41	8	1
Totals	2	-	6	29	6	-	4	22	23	48	13	2

0579 Sabine's Gull

Larus sabini

Status: rare autumn visitor.

Essex/Kent Barking Bay/Crossness, a juvenile from Aug 30th to Sept 19th (AJD *et al*) was mostly viewed from the south bank and ranged as far upriver as North Woolwich/Silvertown in the west.

This record follows on nicely from the two juveniles in 1997, which were the first records since 1994; the total for the London Area now stands at about 76 birds, at least 64 of which were seen following 'The Great Storm' in October 1987. This individual was one of the longest staying, and hence most widely appreciated, of all Sabine's to have turned up in London.

0582 Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

Status: very common winter visitor and passage migrant, has bred.

The best count of the year was 19,500 at Queen Elizabeth II Res in February. At least four pairs bred at Staines Res, raising four young and another pair nested unsuccessfully at nearby Perry Oaks. All counts of 1,500 or more, details of breeding birds, Inner London counts of 500 and over, as well as records of abnormally plumaged birds, are given.

Essex Beckton, 2,950 on Aug 8th, 5,500 on Sept 5th, 2,950 on Nov 28th and 7,000 on Dec 13th. Belhus Woods CP, a leucistic bird on Mar 13th. Dagenham Chase, a cinnamon-buff coloured bird on Dec 12th. Nazeing GP, an albino on Jan 3rd, 19th, 21st and Dec 25th. Ongar landfill, a partial

- albino on Jan 25th. Rainham Marsh, monthly maxima, 17,000 on Jan 1st, 9,000 on Feb 14th, 8,000 on Mar 14th, 15,000 on Oct 15th, 16,000 on Nov 21st and 10,000 on Dec 30th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 2,000 on Nov 21st. Hilfield Park Res, the only roost count was 2,500 on Aug 18th; leucistic birds were seen on the following dates: singles on Jan 29th, 31st, Feb 6th, Sept 4th, 11th, Nov 7th, 8th and 28th.
- Middx Brent Res, 4,500 on Aug 18th, 3,000 on Sept 18th. Perry Oaks SF, one pair nested, but no young were raised. Staines Res, at least four pairs nested on the tern rafts and successfully raised at least four young. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, 500 during February was the highest count. Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens, 541 on Nov 11th and 560 on Dec 16th.
- Kent Erith Reach, 2,050 on Nov 12th. Hall Place Gardens, 1,500 on Mar 7th. Thames Barrier area, monthly maxima, 3,000 in January, 2,800 in February, 1,550 in November and 2,200 in December.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 3,500 flying over to roost on Jan 14th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 19,500 roosting on Feb 7th. Putney, between Barnes and Putney bridges, 1,525 on Jan 18th, 1,530 on Feb 15th and 2,550 on Dec 6th. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, 664 on Feb 27th and 678 on Mar 4th.

0589 Ring-billed Gull***Larus delawarensis***

Status: rare visitor.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, a first-winter bird on Feb 21st (MKD).
- Kent Greenwich Park, an adult, first seen on Aug 17th last year (and again on Oct 30th), was seen again on Mar 9th, 20th, 22nd and 23rd (SC,RK *et al*).

Apart from the returning adult at Greenwich Park, the only new record this year was at Rainham Marsh, which takes the London total to 16 - a relatively disappointing year given the four new records in 1997. The last blank year was in 1990.

0590 Common Gull***Larus canus***

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant.

The largest counts this year, involved the feeding flocks at the refuse tips at Rainham Marsh, but disappointingly there were only two other counts of 1,000 or more elsewhere in London. Many of the highest locality counts related to passage birds in February and March. The largest roost count was 600 at Queen Elizabeth II Res. Highest counts from each site are given below.

- Essex Nazeing GP, 650 on Mar 8th. Hainault Forest, 500 on Jan 3rd. Rainham Marsh, up to 1,500 in January, 1,000 in February, 1,250 in March and 2,000 in December.
- Herts The highest count in this sector was 200 at Amwell GP on Mar 14th.

- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, 200 on Jan 16th. Brent Res, 350 on Dec 14th and 31st. Ellern Mead Farm, Totteridge, 600 on Feb 10th. Kempton Park Res, 300 on Feb 13th and Mar 9th. Mill Hill, 250 on Feb 11th. Staines Res, 133 on Feb 15th. Wood Green Res, 235 on Feb 22nd. *Inner London*: Hyde Park/ Kensington Gardens, 12 on Dec 16th. Regent's Park, 26 on Feb 15th.
- Kent Danson Park, 350 on Nov 17th. Hall Place Gardens, 326 on Jan 31st. Thames Barrier area, 175 in January.
- Surrey Chelsham, 150 at Beddlestead Farm on Feb 23rd. Limpsfield, 1,200 on Jan 9th at Staffhurst. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 600 on Jan 23rd. Trevereaux/ Swaynesland, 650 flew W on Mar 8th. Walton Res, 340 on Jan 31st, 355 on Dec 6th. Wimbledon Common, 100 on Jan 11th, Mar 5th and 15th. Woldingham, 1,000 on Feb 25th at Botley Hill. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, 57 on Dec 17th.

1995 Additional record

- Middx *Inner London*: London Fields, Hackney, E8, 75-100 on Jan 10th.

0591 Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

Status: common; most regular in autumn and winter; breeds in small numbers in central London.

At least 24 pairs bred this year, the best year yet; interestingly, none of these were in Inner London - the previous stronghold for this species. Despite this new record there seems little doubt that this only represents the tip of the iceberg, since there were no records from previous strongholds, such as the King's Cross area (see additional 1995 record below). It seems likely that this adaptable gull will now increase rapidly as a breeding bird throughout the metropolis, although due to the inaccessibility of many of its rooftop breeding sites, we may never discover their true totals. The table below tabulates the number of breeding pairs in London in the last ten years. The highest count of the year was a roost count of 1,250 at Queen Elizabeth II Res in August - well down on the 4,400 at Queen Mother Res in August 1995. All counts of 300 or more are given (or the highest county counts if these were lower), details of any breeding records, as well as all Inner London records of ten or more birds.

Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
No. of pairs	2	5	0	0	8	17	23	7	9	24

- Essex Beckton, 19 pairs bred on jetties (seven pairs in 1997); 400 on Aug 8th, 800 on Sept 5th. Harold Hill, one pair seen during the summer in an industrial area. Rainham Marsh, 300 on May 23rd, up to 500 in August, 350 on Sept 5th, 450 on Oct 3rd, 300 on Nov 28th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 350 on Oct 15th. Hilfield Park Res, 478 on Aug 27th and 813 on Sept 11th.

- Middx Billingsgate Dock, at least 15 pairs bred (AJD). Blackwall, one pair bred at Orchard Place, E14. Blackwall Basin, one pair bred on a tern raft. Brent Res, 33 adults and 14 juveniles on July 25th probably bred on warehouses at Staples Corner. *Inner London*: Albert Embankment, 17 on Sept 22nd. Hyde Park, 23 on Sept 16th. Kensington Gardens, up to 12 in April, ten on Sept 21st. Regent's Park, maximum of 46 on Mar 15th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, 150 on May 9th.
- Kent Erith Reach, 216 on Nov 12th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, a pair seen displaying and copulating in April. Queen Elizabeth II Res, monthly maxima roost counts were: 580 in January, 480 in February, 540 in August, 1,265 in August, 520 in September, 690 in October, 710 in November and 400 in December. *Inner London*: Lambeth Bridge, 11 on Apr 16th. Surrey Docks, maximum of 28 on Mar 4th.

1995 Additional record

- Middx *Inner London*: King's Cross Depot, at least 23 adults sitting on nests on the roof (to which special access had been gained) on June 17th. This alters the table of breeding pairs under this species since 1995.

0592 Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

Status: common, most regular in winter; breeds in small numbers.

At least 26 pairs bred this year, easily a new London record; as with the previous species this surely only represents the tip of the iceberg and must be a mere stepping stone on its spread across London. Interestingly, only five pairs bred in Inner London - previously the stronghold of this species in London. The highest count was 700 at Rainham Marsh. All peak monthly counts over 100 (or highest county counts where these were lower), Inner London counts of ten or more birds, as well as details of breeding birds are given.

Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
No. of pairs	5	6	-	-	8	19	11	6	8	26

- Essex Beckton, 12 pairs bred on jetties; 120 on Sept 5th. Rainham Marsh, up to 700 in January, 150 on Feb 14th, 200 on Mar 7th, 400 in November and 200 on Dec 30th. Weald Park, 300 flew SW on Jan 9th.
- Herts Rye Meads SF, 300 on Feb 4th.
- Middx Billingsgate Dock, at least 15 pairs bred on tern rafts and on the roof of the fish market, although perhaps as many as 20 pairs bred in the area. Blackwall Basin, one pair nested on tern raft. Staines Res, 136 on Jan 18th was the highest county count. *Inner London*: Euston Square, ten on Mar 11th. Fisherton Street Estate, up to 20 adults during the breeding season. Glenmore Road, NW3, one pair raised two young. Paddington BR station, one pair raised two young. Primrose Hill, up to 25 in June and July. Regent's Park, one pair bred, but the nest was abandoned; 150 on Mar 17th. St James's Park, 33 on Apr 8th, 17 on 15th. St Martin's Crescent, Camden, one pair raised one young.

- Kent Hoblingwell Wood, 57 flying S on Nov 22nd was the highest county count. Thames Barrier area, one pair bred, raising three young.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, 210 on Oct 30th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 360 on Jan 17th, 190 on Feb 11th, 190 on Sept 3rd, 470 on Nov 21st, 630 on Dec 31st. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, 18 on Feb 27th.

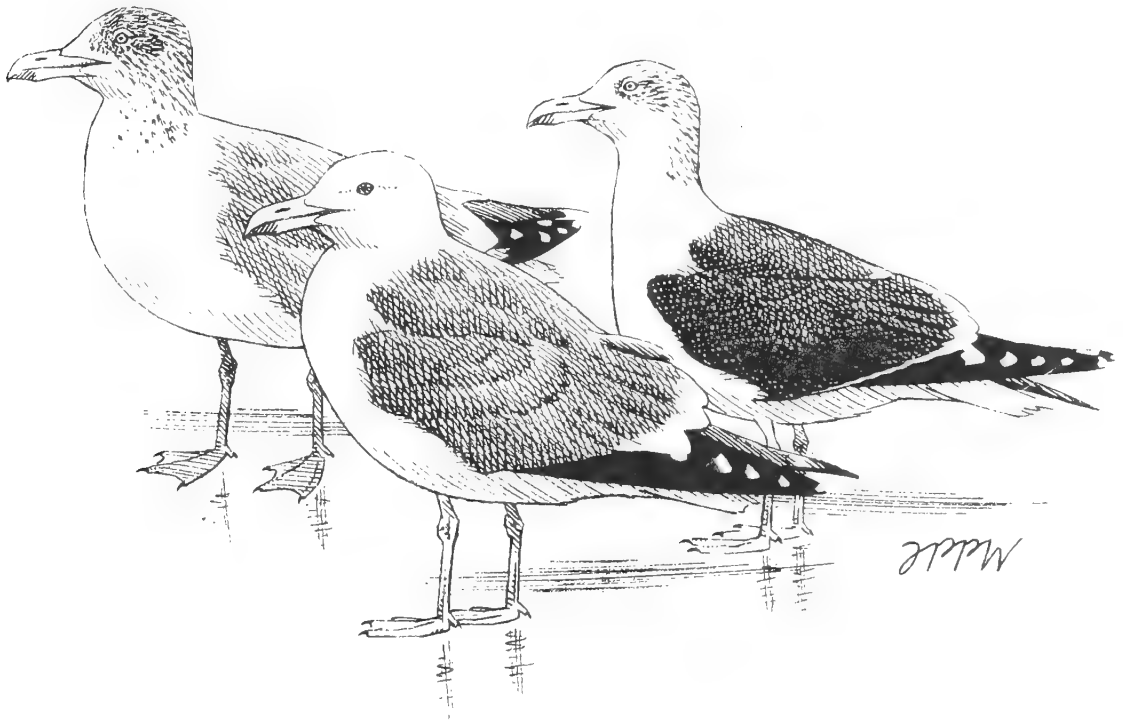
1995 Additional records

- Middx King's Cross Depot, at least five active nests on the roof (to which special access had been gained) on June 17th, three of which had chicks. St Marks Crescent, NW1, at least four nests (all with chicks) on the chimneys of a house, with perhaps as many as four more additional pairs. St Pancras Church, one adult sitting on a nest and two additional chicks (presumably locally bred) flying around. This alters the table of breeding pairs under this species since 1995.

0592.02 Yellow-legged Gull

Larus michahellis

Status: regular migrant and winter visitor, commonest in the autumn, especially along the Thames.



The largest count this year was at Staines Res with 97 in August, the first time that the east side of London has been outnumbered by a west London site and a sure indication of how widespread this species has become. Other counts in double figures came from six sites. As usual, the highest flocks all fell within the July to September period, with the August peak of 213 well above the levels of recent years. There were records from 60 sites (up from the record 49 last year). All records are given in the table below for those sites recording four or more birds together, in the form of monthly peak counts at each site, sites recording three or fewer individuals are totalled under 'other sites'. All Inner London records are listed.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Barking Bay	-	2	-	-	7	-	15	19	7	-
	Beckton	2	5	5	1	9	11	1	-	8	11
	Nazeing GP	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Rainham Marsh	10	8	1	8	35	50	15	12	7	10
	Silvertown	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
	Wm Girling Res	5	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
	Herts	Amwell GP	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2
Middx		Staines Res	-	2	-	-	1	97	69	1	1
Bucks	Queen Mother Res	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	10	-	-
Kent	Dartford Marsh	2	-	-	4	15	10	4	-	-	-
	Thames Barrier	3	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
	Thamesmead	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	3
Surrey	Addlestone	-	1	-	1	12	19	17	5	4	3
	Island Barn Res	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Wandsworth	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	3	2	1
	Inner London (7)	2	-	1	2	-	1	3	-	3	-
	Others (45 sites)	18	8	7	3	9	17	11	14	16	23
Totals		60	33	17	19	100	213	147	67	50	58

Middx *Inner London*: Paddington Green, one on Mar 31st. Primrose Hill, one on June 29th. Regent's Park, singles on Jan 14th, May 27th, June 2nd, Aug 17th, 23rd, 24th, Sept 12th and 15th (2 birds). St James's Park, one on Nov 26th.

Surrey *Inner London*: Battersea Park, singles on Sept 19th and Nov 9th.

1997 Additional records

Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, singles on May 1st, 11th, 30th, June 1st and 2nd (two different birds).

0592.01 Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans

Status: rare, but likely to be an increasingly regular visitor.

During the last few years the Herring Gull 'group' (and indeed all the large gulls) have come under increasing scrutiny from both birdwatchers and taxonomists. Observations of 'yellow-legged' Herring Gulls have been listed in previous London Bird reports since at least 1972 and within the separate heading of Yellow-legged Herring Gull since 1984. Although the precise taxonomic status of Caspian Gull remains unclear, and indeed the subject of some controversy, it seems sensible to publish all the records that we are aware of as 'showing characters of Caspian Gull', rather than ignore them. In reality all these records should be submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee for their expert judgement, but they are not currently making any decisions on this (sub) species. Their publication here does not imply acceptance either by the LNHS Records Committee or the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. All known records are given.

Essex Barking Bay, an adult on Dec 12th (AJD). Beckton, a third year bird from Mar 14th until Apr 3rd and an adult on Sept 13th (AJD). Dagenham Chase,

a sub-adult on Feb 11th (HVn). King George V Dock and surrounding area, an adult on Jan 31st and again from Nov 28th into 1999 (AJD *et al*). Rainham Marsh, adults on Feb 14th and June 20th (MKD), Nov 20th, 21st and 28th (RK,DM *et al*), two (adult and first-winter) on Dec 6th and 8th (DM *et al*) and an adult on Dec 12th and 31st (MKD,DMI). Walthamstow Filter Beds, an adult on Oct 10th (DL).

Bucks Colnbrook, a 'near-adult' on Sept 13th (CDRH). Wraysbury GP, an adult on Nov 23rd and another on Dec 18th (CDRH).

Kent Dartford Marsh, an adult on Dec 27th (DW). Long Reach SF, one on Nov 27th (GBY). Thamesmead, an adult on Dec 12th (AJD) - also see under Royal Docks, Essex.

Surrey River Thames at Twickenham, an adult on Dec 31st (AP). River Thames at Wandsworth, an adult on Sept 12th and Oct 10th (RJA).

1997 Additional records

Essex Rainham Marsh, one on Feb 15th (MKD).

Herts Amwell GP, one on Dec 20th and 21st (BR).

Kent Thames Barrier area, one on Oct 17th and 20th (DM).

Surrey Addlestone, one on Aug 12th (MBL).

0598 Iceland Gull

Larus glaucooides

Status: scarce late winter and early spring visitor.

A quite remarkable year with a minimum of 11 accepted birds being seen - easily eclipsing the previous record years of six in 1985, 1987 and 1994. Most records fell within the period from late January to April. At least three birds were found in the gigantic gull roost at Queen Mother Res. The table below documents all records in the last ten years. All records are given.

Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Birds	-	4	4	3	2-3	6	3	1	4	11

Essex King George V Res, an adult on Jan 23rd and 25th (AC,RC). The same adult at Nazeing GP on Jan 20th (SC *et al*). Ongar Landfill, two (first- and second-winter) on Jan 24th (DOD). Rainham Marsh, an adult on Feb 7th (HVn). Wm Girling Res, an adult on Jan 24th (same as King George V) and a first-winter on Mar 8th (SC *et al*).

Herts Tyttenhanger GP, a second-summer flew N on Apr 26th (LM).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, a first-winter on Mar 18th, 19th and 20th, two (adult and first-winter) on Mar 22nd, the adult on 23rd, 24th, 28th, two on 31st and Apr 2nd, adult on 4th, first-winter on 6th, two (both first-winters) on Apr 22nd, first-winter from 23rd to 26th (CDRH,AVM,DJM *et al*).

Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, a first-winter from Feb 8th to 11th, 18th and 19th (DMH). River Thames at Wandsworth, an immature, probably first-winter flew upriver on Dec 25th (RJA).

1997 Additional record

Essex Rainham Marsh, an adult showing characters of the race *L.g.kumleini* on Dec 13th (MKD) has been accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

0599 Glaucous Gull***Larus hyperboreus***

Status: scarce winter visitor; more regular in cold weather.

Another good year with at least 11 individuals, although at least five birds were reported but not described, making a potential total of 16 - all observers are reminded that no records of this species will be published without a full description. Two localities - Queen Mother Res and Rainham Marsh - each logged three individuals. The table below documents all records in the last ten years. All records are given.

Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Birds	4	2	6	5	4	1	2	6	12	11

Essex Beckton, a first-winter on Mar 7th (AJD). King George V Res, a first-winter on Jan 17th and 19th, was found dead on 20th (PAB *et al*). Nazeing GP, a third-winter on Jan 3rd and 19th (SC) from 1997, and an adult on Jan 4th (WR). Ongar Landfill, a first-winter on Feb 11th (DA). Rainham Marsh, a first-winter from Jan 11th (SRP *et al*), an adult from Jan 23rd (SC *et al*), with three (adult, first-winter and second-winter) on 24th (AJD,MKD,SRP), two (first and second-winter) on 25th, a first winter on Jan 31st and Feb 14th and a second-winter on Mar 7th (mo) - three birds in all.

Herts Amwell GP, a third-winter (remaining from 1997) on Jan 2nd (GJW, BR). Post Wood, a third winter on Jan 1st (RC,GG,DL).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, a second-winter on Jan 20th (CDRH), 29th, two (first and second-winter) on Jan 30th, a second-winter on 31st, first-winter on 4th, two first-winters on Feb 5th (CDRH), a first-winter on 7th, 14th and a second-winter on 26th (CDRH,CL,AVM) - three birds in all.

0600 Great Black-backed Gull***Larus marinus***

Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers, less common at other seasons.

The highest count during the year was 196 at Nazeing in January and compares with previous annual peak counts of 300 in 1997. This species shows no sign of becoming more regular than has been the case in recent years. All counts of ten or more birds, as well as all Inner London records, are given.

Essex Beckton, 30 on Sept 5th, 20 on Nov 28th and 33 on Dec 5th. Nazeing GP, 15 on Jan 3rd, 107 on 6th, 196 on 8th and 15 on 11th. Rainham Marsh,

50 on Jan 1st, 100 on Jan 11th and 17th, 120 on Nov 28th, 100 on Dec 30th and 180 on 31st. South Ockendon, 50 on Dec 28th. Walthamstow Res, 29 on Dec 6th.

- Herts Amwell GP, 145 on Jan 5th. Rye Meads SF, 20 on Feb 4th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 19 on Oct 11th and 13 on Nov 8th. Sevenoaks Reserve, 110 on Feb 23rd and 15 on Dec 14th.
- Middx Staines Res, 65 on Jan 18th, ten on Aug 29th, 23 on Oct 11th, 18 on 14th, and 37 on Nov 8th. Tottenham Marsh, 12 on Feb 6th and 16 on Nov 12th. *Inner London*: Paddington Green, one on Sept 30th. Regent's Park, one on Nov 21st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 33 on Dec 26th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, 35 on Jan 11th, 14 on Nov 10th, 108 on Dec 28th and 47 on 31st. River Thames at Wandsworth, 35 flew upstream on Dec 25th. Walton Res, 47 on Jan 11th, ten on 13th, 22 on Nov 13th, 46 on Dec 12th and 38 on 30th. *Inner London*: Albert Embankment, one on Sept 22nd. Deptford Strand, one on July 31st. Kennington, one on Mar 29th. River Thames at Rotherhithe, two on Sept 8th. Southbank, SE1, one on Sept 16th. Surrey Docks, up to four from January to March and again between September and December.

0602 Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

Status: regular, but scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A fairly typical spread of records, involving 17 records of 18 birds (repeating the relatively low totals of 1996 and 1997). All records were of singletons apart from two at Dartford Marsh on Feb 28th. January and February accounted for 11 records - strong winds at the start of January and a cold spell later in the month was probably responsible for many of these records. All records are given.

- Essex Barking Bay, one on Oct 3rd. King George V Res, one on May 2nd. Nazeing GP, an oiled bird on Jan 19th. Rainham Marsh, one on Jan 25th. Tilbury Docks, one on Feb 1st, may have been oiled. Wm Girling Res, one on Apr 2nd.
- Herts Fir and Pond Woods, one found dead on Feb 23rd. Hilfield Park Res, one on Oct 31st. Rye Meads SF, one on Mar 27th, was found dead on 28th, one on May 2nd.
- Middx King George VI Res, one on Apr 12th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Feb 28th. Thames Barrier area, one on Jan 6th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Jan 2nd, 4th, 8th and 18th. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one on Jan 10th (CME).

0611 Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

Status: uncommon passage migrant, often in flocks.

Another relatively poor year with 26 records of 83 birds. Autumn records were more numerous than spring ones by nearly three to one. The first

bird of the year was at Staines Res on the early date of Mar 21st; overall there were seven records of 17 birds during the spring. The only significant movement of note during the autumn took place on Sept 4th - when there were four records of 28 birds (although two flocks of five in Middlesex could have involved the same birds), including the largest flock of the year (14 at Queen Mother Res). The last records of the year (six birds at three sites) were on Oct 10th. Autumn passage totalled 19 records of 66 birds. The table below tabulates the number of birds and records over the last ten years. All records are given.

Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
No. of records	56	29	34	37	26	54	44	39	29	26
No. of birds	186	58	64	142	60	127	110	139	69	83

- Essex Barking Bay, two on Oct 10th (AJD). Beckton, three on Aug 1st (AJD). Essex Filter Beds, four on Sept 11th (GJ, KK, MM). Rainham Marsh, three on Sept 2nd (PS), one on Sept 21st (SC). Walthamstow Res, one on July 19th and three on Sept 13th (PL).
- Middx Bedford Lakes CP, one on Apr 25th (BCPR). Brent Res, five on Sept 4th, one on 5th, seven on 12th and two on 19th (RB, SEB, JPC, ASMS). Staines Res, one on Mar 21st (AS), four on Sept 4th (DJM). Wood Green Res, five on Sept 4th (DA, RA). *Inner London*: Primrose Hill, one on Sept 14th (DM).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, nine on May 1st and 14 on Sept 4th (JAS).
- Kent Crossness, two on Oct 10th (DL, AVM, DM).
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, two on Sept 12th (BEBR, NPS, JPPW). Beddington SF, two on Oct 10th (BBR). Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Apr 24th, two on May 2nd, one on 5th, two on June 2nd and four on Aug 22nd (DMH).

1997 Additional record

- Middx Staines Res, two on Sept 6th (LGRE).

0615 Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, increasing as a breeding species.

A minimum of 184 pairs, which raised at least 133 young compared to 233 pairs in 1997). Much of this reduction can be accounted for by a lack of reports from some sites, most notably Walthamstow Res where 30 pairs bred in 1997. In addition, the generally cold and wet summer may have accounted for the desertion of many nests or broods. The lack of proper maintenance on many breeding rafts has allowed a profuse weed growth to develop, which not only prevents a larger number of pairs breeding, but also prevents proper monitoring. All breeding records are given below; passage records are summarised under 0615/0616.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, up to five birds intermittently during the summer, no breeding proved. Fishers Green, at least one pair bred (10 pairs in 1997).

- Royal Albert Dock, one pair bred. Royal Victoria Dock, at least four pairs nested. Hainault Forest, one pair plus two young being fed from late July to September, presumably bred locally.
- Herts Aldenham Res, one pair summered. Amwell GP, seven pairs bred. Cheshunt GP, at least three pairs bred on Friday Lake (5 in 1997) and one pair was present on Seventy Acres GP. Hilfield Park Res, two pairs bred, raising one young. Rye Meads SF, 47 pairs raised 62 young (44 pairs bred in 1997). Stocker's Lake, at least nine pairs attempted to nest (14 pairs in 1997).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, two pairs raised three young. Blackwall Basin, one pair raised one chick (3 pairs in 1997). Brent Res, 29 pairs nested, raising 30 young (21 pairs in 1997). East India Dock Basin, five pairs raised six young. Millwall Docks, one pair raised one young. Ponders End Lake, about eight pairs present. Poplar Docks, two pairs raised three young. Staines Res, at least 40 pairs bred, number of young reared unknown - many birds nested late this year and a lot of nests were hidden by tall vegetation making accurate monitoring impossible (67 pairs bred in 1997); in addition the presence of breeding Black-headed Gulls on the same rafts prevented some pairs from settling.
- Bucks Thorney Country Park, 3-4 pairs bred, raising a minimum of six young.
- Surrey Lonsdale Road Res, three pairs raised four young. Queen Elizabeth II Res, at least 12 pairs raised only eight young. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, two pairs raised six young.

615/616 Common/Arctic Tern

There were no large movements during the spring and the largest flock was a mere 58 at Staines Res on May 8th. Early September saw the peak counts (and movements) of the year with 100 at Barking Bay and 200 at Queen Mother Res on 1st and a huge total of 410 birds past Barking Bay on 5th. Passage records of Common Tern are summarised here, together with unspecified observations of Common/Arctic Terns, along with Inner London records.

April: The first birds of the year arrived on 2nd at Brent Res (two) and Island Barn Res. Records remained fairly thinly scattered until 18th when 12 dropped in at Walthamstow Res. Slightly more marked movements occurred from 21st with 14 birds at three sites, on 22nd with 18 birds at five sites and 25th with 28 birds at four sites. The first big arrival was on 28th with 55 birds at three sites, including 36 at Brent Res. By 30th there were 30 birds at Rye Meads.

May: A gathering of 40 birds at Broadwater on 2nd was rather isolated (with only 11 birds elsewhere); the next wave of passage took place on 8th with 82 birds at three sites, including 58 at Staines - the highest count of the spring. Apart from 14 birds flying upriver past Surrey Docks on 12th there were no significant counts away from breeding localities.

July: The only significant gatherings during the month were: 25 at Amwell GP on 7th, 82 at Staines Res on 12th and 66 at Queen Elizabeth II Res on 13th. Undoubtedly most of these referred to breeding birds and locally reared juveniles. There was no real evidence of passage through the Area during the month.

August: A large count of 79 birds at Beckton on 1st, along with 15 at Middlesex Filter Beds clearly related to birds on the move. A count of 20 birds at Barking Bay on 30th suddenly jumped up to 60 the next day, when there were also 20 at Thamesmead.

September: The wave of passage continued with totals at Barking rising to 100 on 1st, along with an impressive 200 at Queen Mother Res, 26 at Queen Elizabeth II and 17 at Staines. With 100 still at Barking on 2nd, another 38 birds flew west past Surrey Docks. A huge passage of 410 birds headed upriver past Barking on 5th, with perhaps another 76 at Northfleet. A further count of 40 at Thamesmead on 6th clearly concerned passage birds, as did counts at Staines of 40 on 7th, 52 on 8th and 41 on 9th - all birds flying either south or west. Thereafter totals dropped considerably and apart from a small arrival of 32 birds at six sites on 13th, including 15 at Barking, few further movements were apparent. The last sighting of the month was of ten birds at Rainham on 30th.

October: The only sightings during the month involved one bird at Rainham on 6th, then singles at Barn Elms WWT, Queen Elizabeth II Res and along the River Thames at Wandsworth, all on 11th and finally two birds (not specifically identified) flew over Sipson on 31st.

Middx *Inner London*: Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, one on July 16th. Limehouse, up to two in April, four in May and five in July. Little Venice, up to three between May and June, one on Aug 16th. Paddington Green, one or twos flying over on many dates from May to July. Primrose Hill, one on July 13th. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, four on June 16th, one on 29th. Regent's Park, one or two on many dates from May 14th to Aug 12th; but three on July 20th and four on 24th.

Surrey *Inner London*: Battersea Park, singles on June 1st and July 20th. Deptford Strand, one on July 31st. Surrey Docks, one on Apr 23rd, 14 flew W on May 12th and 38 flew W on Sept 2nd; two pairs bred.

0616 Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, occasionally in large flocks.

The first birds were at King George V Res on Apr 5th, followed by one at Hilfield Park Res, on Apr 11th, 13 at Brent Res on Apr 24th, one at Queen Elizabeth II Res on 25th and three more at Brent on 29th. May 1st saw the arrival of 92 birds (at 4 sites), followed by a truly impressive total of 400 birds (at 12 sites) the next day and a further 105 birds (at 8 sites) on

3rd. Overall a huge total of 504 birds (at 13 sites) moved through during the spring (132 in 1997, 129 in 1996 and 271 in 1995). Interestingly, several observers commented that the number of birds heading northbound through the Lea valley on May 2nd could have been as high as 350. Autumn passage, although not as good as the spring, was also better than average with a total of about 72 birds (17 in 1997 and nine in 1996) at 13 sites. The first southbound migrants were at Beckton on July 19th, followed by four on Aug 1st. Thereafter, no more than two birds were seen together until ten were at Barking on Aug 30th and another ten on Sept 2nd; 11 birds were at four sites on 5th. Few birds were seen subsequently, with the last at Barking on Oct 3rd (the only October record). All records are given.

- Essex Banbury Res, 126 birds (in three groups of 18, 68 and 40) on May 2nd flew N during the day (RKr, DL, PL, TR). Barking Bay, ten on Aug 30th, five on 31st and Sept 1st, ten on 2nd, three on 5th and 13th, two on 14th and one on Oct 3rd (AJD, MKD, SRP). Beckton, three on July 19th, four on Aug 1st (AJD). Dagenham Chase, one on Sept 5th (HVn). Essex Filter Beds, one on Sept 5th (GJ). Grays, three on May 3rd, singles on Aug 26th and 30th (SC). King George V Res, 16 on Apr 5th, 80 on May 1st, 40 on 2nd, 45 on 3rd, 16 on 4th, six on 5th and six on 9th (AAB, SC, GJ, PJV *et al*). Silvertown, eight on May 2nd (AJD). Walthamstow Res, 37 (in three groups of 16, 15 and 6) flew N on May 2nd (SRH, DL, PL, TR).
- Herts Amwell GP, ten on May 1st and one on 7th (GJW). Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 11th, 75 on May 1st, c70 on 2nd and two on 4th (HPBR). Tyttenhanger GP, 31 on May 2nd and one on May 3rd (LM, SP).
- Middx Brent Res, 13 on Apr 24th, three on 29th, one on May 1st, 27 on 2nd and 22 on 3rd (LAB, RB, JPC, ASMS). Broadwater, 58 on May 2nd (AVM), ten on 3rd (CL). Hampstead Heath, one on May 2nd (PWD). Queen Mary Res, five on May 2nd, singles on Aug 26th and 31st (RJK, CL, DJM). Staines Res, 13 on May 3rd and one on Aug 31st (AVM, DJM, PN).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, three on May 3rd, one on 5th, two on 10th, one on Aug 16th, two on 27th and 31st, and five on Sept 4th (JAS).
- Kent Crossness, singles on Aug 26th (JT) and Sept 19th (DM). Sevenoaks Reserve, one on May 1st (MC).
- Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Apr 25th, two on May 2nd, eight on 3rd, two on 9th, one on Aug 22nd and 23rd (DMH, SJS). Walton Res, one on May 2nd (DMH).

1997 Additional record

- Middx Staines Res, three on Apr 15th (LGRE).

0624 Little Tern

Sterna albifrons

Status: uncommon, but annual; passage migrant.

With just six records of eight birds this was the poorest year since 1967. The table below documents all birds and records over the last 10 years. All records are given.

Year	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
Records	9	14	18	16	7	12	13	12	12	6
Birds	11	37	28	45	12	24	24	15	38	8

- Essex Beckton, one flew W on Aug 6th (AJD). Walthamstow Res, one flew N at 08.34 on May 2nd (DL,PL,TR,RKr).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on June 20th.
- Kent Northfleet, two on Sept 5th (SC).
- Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, two flew N at 05.36 on May 10th (DMH).

0627 Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

Status: regular, often common, spring and autumn passage migrant, occasional in summer.

Overall a total of about 832 birds were logged at 26 sites during the year (163 birds were seen in 1997). Spring migration was subdued with only 34 birds at 12 sites, however the autumn passage was massive with 798 birds at 23 sites. Totals certainly matched 1994, although still fell short of the record-breaking 1992 when over 600 birds were seen on one day alone. The best day this year was Sept 5th with 463 birds across the Area, peak counts were 75 at Barking Bay and 73 at Queen Mary Res; the best count of the year was 100 at Queen Mother Res on Sept 1st.

April: Rather surprisingly there was just one record during the month: at Broadwater on 22nd.

May: The next record was of five birds at North Woolwich on 5th followed by a single at King George V Res on 8th and then seven at King George VI and Staines reservoirs the next day (the highest count of the spring). A slow trickle of birds followed with peaks of four at Ponders End Lake on 11th, then three at Dartford Marsh and four at King George V on 14th. Apart from scattered singles there were two at Queen Elizabeth II Res on 22nd.

June: The only mid-summer record this year was a single at Queen Elizabeth II on 1st.

August: There were no further sightings until two at Beckton/Barking on 1st, closely followed by two at Staines on 2nd. Singles were at Queen Elizabeth II and Staines on 11th and 16th, respectively. Three at Barking Bay on 22nd, two over Uxbridge on 26th and a single at Walthamstow Res on 30th were the only subsequent records that preceded a large influx of about 65 birds on 31st, including at least 46 at Barking Bay, ten at Queen Mary Res, four at Queen Elizabeth II, three at Staines and two at Brent Res.

September: A huge flock of at least 100 birds at Queen Mother on 1st, was closely followed by 74 birds across London the next day, including 30 at Barking Bay. For the next two days sightings diminished, only to be followed by another huge arrival of at least 464 birds at 15 sites on 5th, including 75 at Barking Bay, 73 at Queen Mary, 60 at Crossness, 40 at King George V, 39 at Hilfield Park Res and 25 at Staines. Although a few birds lingered (27 on 6th) 17 birds at Staines on 7th were new arrivals. Over the next few days totals gradually declined with 15 on 8th, 11 on 9th, four on 10th and 11th and five on 12th. A final flurry of birds on 13th, including 12 at Barking Bay and two at North Woolwich which stayed until 14th. The last bird of the year was at Tyttenhanger GP on 27th.

0634 Guillemot ***Uria aalge***

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor; subject to occasional cold weather influxes.

Surrey Beddington SF, one flew over the lake and then south into Beddington Park on Dec 30th. A few days later a Guillemot was picked up at the nearby Roundshaw estate and taken into care at Beddington Wildlife Hospital. It was subsequently released at Winchelsea, East Sussex (PA).

Apart from influxes of eight birds in 1983 and at least 90 birds in 1986, this auk remains a scarce bird in London. Following on from the two birds last year, this is only the seventh in the last ten years.

0647 Little Auk ***Alle alle***

Status: scarce late autumn visitor, rare in winter.

Essex King George V Res, one on Dec 1st (PJV). Wm Girling Res, a very flighty individual seen at dusk on Nov 1st (AM *et al*).

Both of these are typical records on typical dates and at traditionally favoured localities. There have been sightings in all but four of the last 16 years.

0665 Feral Rock Dove ***Columbia livia***

Status: abundant breeding resident

Although the population appears to be stable there has been a slow expansion into more rural and suburban habitats in recent years, while at several well established sites there has been a recent increase in breeding numbers. At Romford town centre over 70 pairs bred, maintaining the increase noted in the last decade. Other notable breeding concentrations

included 15 breeding pairs along the Regent's Canal and several pairs in the park itself, and 25-30 pairs in the Charlton area (as in 1997).

Outside the breeding season some impressive flocks were reported, including many from Inner London. Outside Inner London the largest flocks were; 500 at Berwick Ponds on Oct 4th, up to 400 at Hainault Forest at the end of October, 500 at Vicarage Farm Enfield on Aug 28th with 1,000 there on Sept. 22nd and 1,000 at Henley Wood Chelsham on Dec 16th.

There was a welcome increase in the number of records of the neglected Inner London population. Here the largest flocks included: Burgess Park 265 on July 9th; Camberwell Green 150-200 on various dates during the year; Hyde Park, 198 on May 8th; Kensington Gardens, up to 250 throughout the year with a maximum of 842 on Dec 31st; Limehouse, up to 200 during the year; Regent's Canal, 200 on June 17th; Surrey Docks, maximum of 327 on Nov 16th; Sussex Gardens, 200 on Nov 26th; Trafalgar Square 1,500 on June 27th and 800 on Oct 16th; Victoria Park, up to 219 during the year; and Euston Square, 225 on Mar 31st.

0668 **Stock Dove**

Columba oenas

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant.

Breeding season reports indicate a stable population with well over 100 pairs reported from over 70 sites during the breeding season. As noted last year the majority came from north of the River Thames with good populations in Essex, Herts and Bucks. In Essex, breeding was reported as far upriver as Barking Marsh (five pairs), Creekmouth (five pairs) and Beckton (four pairs). At Hainault Forest numbers appear to be stable at six pairs while at nearby Havering CP there was a slight increase to 4-5 pairs. However none could be located at Ongar Park Woods where there had been a good breeding population in the late 1980s. In Bucks, healthy populations of several pairs at each site were recorded from: Black Park, Denham, Langley Park and Iver Heath. Other population reports of four or more pairs included: Bedfords Park, four pairs; Bricket Wood/Common, 14+ territories (15-17 territories in 1997); Foots Cray Meadows, four pairs; Hampton Court Park, four pairs; Lonsdale Road Reservoirs, four pairs; Morden Hall Park, four pairs - a steady increase over the past three years; Osterley Park, ten territories (15 pairs in 1997); and Sopwell, four territories.



Outside the breeding season the only three-figure flocks were: Broadwater, 150 on Feb 21st and 152 Mar 15th; and Shedding Green Farm, Iver, 100 on Mar 30th. Inner London records are given below.

- Middx *Inner London*: Kensington Gardens, at least two breeding pairs (four pairs bred in 1997). Paddington Green, W2, singles on June 6th and 10th, two on 21st, 14 on July 23rd, one on 25th, four on 26th, up to eight during August and 29 on Oct 15th. Primrose Hill, singles on July 8th and Oct 14th. Regent's Park, three pairs bred (two pairs in 1997) and up to 18 during March.
- Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks four S on Oct 16th.

0670 Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus

Status: abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The only sizeable flocks during the first-winter period were 813 roosting at Brent Res on Jan 17th and up to 650 at Limpsfield on Feb 8th. With relatively mild weather prevailing, numbers elsewhere were unexceptional with no large flocks reported. Comments of breeding came from widely scattered sites including 25 pairs at Hainault Forest (as in 1997), 12 pairs at Rainham Marsh (up from six pairs in 1996), 50 territories in the Garston area of Herts, 20 pairs in the Maryon Wilson Park (15-20 pairs in 1997), 20 pairs at Swanscombe and 40 territories at Morden Hall Park (slightly down on 1997).

An albino was present at Brent Reservoir on several dates between February and October while a 'silver-washed' bird was seen at Jubilee Park on June 18th..

As noted last year, autumn passage movements began rather earlier than usual with several three figure flocks being reported from late July onwards. The main passage was between late September and November - mostly moving W or SW. Largest numbers included: 2,500 over Hampstead Heath on Sept 20th with 1,000 there on Oct 19th, 2,000 on Oct 20th, 1,500 on Oct 26th and 29th, and 2,000 on Nov 11th; 1,000 over Morden Hall Park on Nov 8th; 2,200 over Pole Hill/Chingford Plain on Oct 16th; 1,100 at Regent's Park on Sept 28th; and 1,200 over South Norwood Lake on Oct 30th. At least 3,000 were seen on farmland in the Baddlestead Valley on Nov 19th - possibly attracted to game cover crops and unharvested linseed.

Wintering numbers at the end of the year were unexceptional with the largest flock being 500 at Kempton Park Res on Dec 19th.

- Middx/Surrey *Inner London*: Reported from 19 sites during the year with breeding pairs at: Embankment Gardens SW1 (one pair), Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens (several pairs), Paddington Green, W2, (3-4 pairs), Regent's Canal (six pairs), Regent's Park, and Victoria Park. Flocks were

widely reported across Inner London - particularly at peak autumn passage times. The largest included: Paddington Green, 111 W on Nov 4th and 156 on Nov 6th; Primrose Hill, 119 in July, 230 on Sept 24th, 300 on Oct 8th; Regent's Park, 1,100 on Sept 28th, 400 on Oct 15th and 19th, 500 on Oct 20th, 340 on Oct 29th, 400 on Nov 4th; Surrey Docks, 170 on Oct 16th and 258 on Nov 6th; Victoria Park, 137 in April.

0684 Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding numbers remained stable while in some areas (in parts of Essex for example) it has expanded its range to fill a vacant niche left by the decreasing Turtle Dove. Apart from this trend there were few reports of any major change in status. It is locally common in suburban areas and continues to extend its range along Thames-side. At least six pairs bred at Beckton (an increase on 1997) while at Rainham Marsh several pairs bred adjacent to the site. Elsewhere breeding counts included up to 15 pairs in the Collier Row area (a slight increase on 1997), 15-17 pairs in the Havering Village/Havering CP area (numbers stable), 7-8 pairs in the Wykeham Green area of Dagenham, 12 pairs in Central Romford, up to eight pairs breeding at Corbets Tey (numbers stable) and 33 territories in the Garston area. An increase was reported from the Morden Hall Park area of Surrey, but at Ashted Common there was a decrease from 1997. An indication of how long the breeding season extends for comes from Hurst Green, where a pair was nest building on Feb 3rd and Garston, where a pair was noted breeding on Dec 15th.

Outside the breeding season few large flocks were reported but included: Pymmes Park, 150 roosting on Dec 21st; Berwick Ponds, 80 on Oct 4th; Corbets Tey, 70 on July 26th; and Beech Farm, 70 on Sept 8th. Up to 25 roosting in a suburban garden in Collier Row were subjected to raids by the local Sparrowhawks which depleted their numbers. Inner London records were as follows:

- Middx Compayne Gardens, NW6, two on Mar 21st and singles on several dates in April including a singing bird (DR). Regent's Park, singles on Feb 13th, Mar 18th and 24th, up to two in April, two in May, one on June 22nd, one on Aug 14th, three on Sept 2nd, singles on Sept 18th and Oct 18th, three on Oct 20th, and one on Dec 10th (ARD,DJ). Whitechapel, one on Aug 20th (RJW).
- Surrey Surrey Docks, two north on Oct 16th (RK).

0687 Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

Status: localised breeding summer resident and passage migrant.

The first of the year, at Brent Res on Apr 21st, was followed by a small influx in the last week of the month and the first week of May. However as

noted in recent years spring passage was very poor with only scattered observations of mainly one or two birds. Some sites did not get their first birds until well into May, while at some former breeding sites only occasional migrants were noted.

Breeding numbers showed a further worrying decline and the species is now giving real cause for concern. There was a further contraction of its range - particularly in parts of Essex and it has now gone from many of the tetrads occupied at the end of the Atlas fieldwork in 1994. A summary of all records for each sector is given below.

- Essex Although still widespread in parts of 'outer' Essex it is nowhere common. None could be found breeding in former strongholds of Hainault Forest, Ongar Park Woods and Havering, while only 2-3 pairs could be found at Berwick Ponds/Hornchurch CP in an area which held over six pairs five years ago. At least three pairs bred at both Navestock and Rainham Marsh but most other reports were of single pairs only.
- Herts Recorded from only two sites, Rye Meads, where six males held territory and Stocker's Lake. There was a general comment of 'no records from the SW Herts area' for the second year running.
- Middx *Inner London*: singles on Primrose Hill on Sept 17th (DMK). Regent's Park on Apr 27th and May 13th (ARD,DJ). Elsewhere in Middlesex it was recorded from six other sites.
- Bucks Only one record received - one at Wraysbury GP on May 16th.
- Kent Recorded from seven sites with breeding noted only at High Elms. Four at Dartford Marsh on May 23rd was the maximum count.
- Surrey Only seven sites recorded the species during the year. At Bookham Common, the population fell to only five pairs (14 pairs in 1997) while at Ashted Common no territories could be found on the CBC plot (two in 1997). No other site in the Surrey sector reported any breeding activity. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks on May 11th (RK).

Few birds were reported on autumn passage with most having departed by the end of July - only two birds were seen during August and seven scattered singletons during September. The last was at Vicarage Farm Enfield on Oct. 3rd

0712 Ring-necked Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

Status: feral breeding resident.

This species is something of an enigma with a population of probably several hundred pairs south of the River Thames while still remaining a distinct rarity in Herts and Essex. Indeed there were more records for Inner London this year than for Essex while only three were seen in Herts. Very few reports are received for the remaining parts of Essex (less than ten records annually) and although breeding has thought to have occurred in recent years there has been no confirmed record for over 20 years. Why the species should largely be confined to the south and west of our

region is unclear and would repay further study. Numbers were well maintained in Surrey, at a slightly lower level than 1997, but with a new record roost count. Although still widespread in parts of Middlesex, there was a slight fall in the overall counts, while there was a slight improvement in the numbers reported from Kent and Bucks.

The estimated peak numbers for each county are given below.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Essex	1	10+	1	0	1	5
Herts	1	2	2	1	1	3
Middx	280	520	251	174	282	160
Bucks	170	80	83	133	63	175
Kent	159	310	69	9	187	224
Surrey	50	840	1185	1198	3000	2272
Inner London	-	-	-	4	1	6

Most records came from Surrey, Middlesex and Kent and included some impressive counts including a new record of 1,704 at the roost in Surrey on Dec 25th. This roost at Hershams is the largest yet recorded in Britain and exceeded the previous record of 1,507 birds set in August 1997. Several other large counts were made elsewhere and details of these and breeding records are given below.

Largest flocks, breeding records and all records from Essex, Herts and Inner London are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, singles on Aug 13th and Sept 5th. Walthamstow Res, one on May 25th. Wanstead Flats, singles on Jan 16th and Dec 26th.
- Herts Garston, one on Oct 4th. Potters Bar, one on Apr 13th. Scotts Hill, Rickmansworth, one on Oct 4th.
- Middx Crane River Island, five pairs probably bred. Largest flocks were 40 at Bushy Park on Jan 8th and 30 at Hampton Court Park on Aug 27th. *Inner London*: Kensington Gardens, one on Sept 20th (CI). Primrose Hill, one on Feb 8th (DMi). Victoria Park, singles on Apr 10th and again in September (KP,DWH).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, peak counts included 150 over to roost on Jan 10th, 70 on July 18th, 50 on Oct 3rd, 160 over to roost on Nov 10th and 99 on Nov 28th.
- Kent The largest flocks were: 50 at Downham on Sept 20th; 40 at Hither Green Cemetery on Nov 8th; and 71 flying to roost at Sidcup on Aug 5th.
- Surrey Bred or probably bred at Egham, Kew Gardens (two occupied holes), Molesey Heath, Nonsuch Park (two pairs), Richmond Park and Thames Ditton. The large roost counts in the Hershams area included: 1,373 out of roost at dawn on Oct 27th and 1,704 - a record London Area count - leaving the roost on Dec 25th (DMH). Elsewhere notable flocks were reported from: Burwood Park, 40 on Oct 20th; Claremont Lake, 75 at pre-roost on Oct 24th; Kew Gardens, 50+ on Nov 1st; and Walton-on-Thames, 60 flying over to roost on Oct 29th. *Inner London*: Deptford

Strand, one with Feral Pigeons on Feb 25th (WGr). Surrey Docks, one on Sept 28th (RK).

0724 Cuckoo***Cuculus canorus***

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

The first at Weald Park on Apr 13th was followed by a general arrival from Apr 18th onwards and by the end of the month most areas had seen or heard their first birds. Spring passage continued well into May, but as in most recent years there were no large concentrations noted. It was widely reported during the breeding season across the London Area but there were few comments of any change in status. An increase was reported at Rainham Marsh where the number of calling birds increased with up to seven males and up to four females present. Other breeding concentrations were reported from Berwick Ponds/ Ingrebourne Valley (3-4 males and 2+ females); Bookham Common (four males); Hainault forest (three males - but has declined in the last 20 years); and Rye Meads (three males). Most other reports concerned 1-2 males only. It was noted as 'still scarce' in the Limpsfield area of Surrey but the population at Ongar Parks Woods was unchanged on what it was ten years ago. Single males were also heard in suburban gardens in Collier Row and Brentwood during May and June and birds were present as far up the River Thames as Beckton and Greenwich Park during the breeding season.

A Cuckoo's egg was found in a Reed Warbler's nest at Wraysbury GP while single juveniles were reported from Barking Marsh, Buckhurst Hill, Croxley Hall GP, Dartford Marsh, Fairlop and Littlebrook PS.

Although a few birds remained into August, most had gone by the end of July and there were only two records in September: at Panshanger Park on the 2nd and Richmond Park on the 21st. The last bird of the year was at Long Reach SF on Oct 3rd.

Middx *Inner London*: Holland Park, one calling male on May 8th (GG), Regent's Park, singles on June 3rd and 16th (ARD,DJ).

0735 Barn Owl***Tyto alba***

Status: rare breeding resident.

Reports of this scarce resident came from 21 localities during the year, ten of these in Essex. Elsewhere in the London Area, there was a scattering of reports, mainly from parts of Kent and Surrey and included an Inner London record. The only breeding activity came from the usual sites in Essex and Kent and it is in the former county that most of London's breeding pairs are now found. As noted in last year's report all sightings

and reports of birds absence in former breeding sites would be welcomed. All records are given but summarised for sensitive sites.

- Essex Beckton, one pair bred successfully. Copped Hall area, two resident pairs in area. Cranham, one resident pair. Dagenham, one seen near Chequers Lane on Feb 13th. Dagenham Chase, one of unknown origin on Jan 15th. Fairlop, one from Oct. 3rd seen irregularly into 1999. Lodge Farm, one on May 26th. Rainham Marsh, one pair possibly bred but many nest sites have been removed by MoD and is now much scarcer in area. Upshire, one on Sept 25th. Walthamstow Res, one dead on Nov 15th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Dec 25th. Briggens, near Roydon, one on Feb 5th. Rye Meads SF one on Feb 18th. Tyttenhanger GP, one roosting in a tree on five dates between Jan 20th and Feb 5th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one pair resident in area - raised 2-3 young.
- Middx *Inner London*: Aberdare Gardens NW6, one of unknown origin calling on Feb 25th (DR).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on May 16th
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on May 26th, June 4th, July 1st, Aug 9th, Nov 11th and Dec 6th. Kenley, one on Jan 2nd. Malden Rushett, one from January to March in the farm and Chessington Garden Centre area. Nonsuch Park, one calling on Feb 24th.

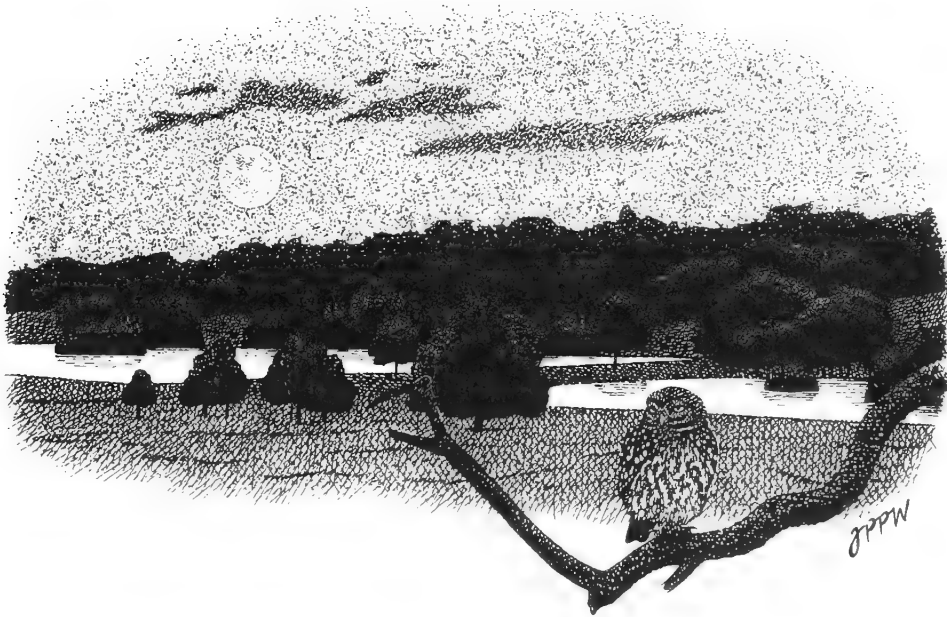
0757 Little Owl

Athene noctua

Status: localised breeding resident.

About 50 pairs were reported from just under 40 sites, a similar position to last year and it continues to be a thinly scattered resident of the London Area. Its strongholds are in Middlesex and Surrey while there was a welcome increase in the number of pairs reported from Essex, where the population appears to have returned to the levels of the mid-1990s. However many sites in this sector remain unoccupied and variable recording may be responsible for the fluctuations during the past five years. One pair probably bred at Rainham Marsh, the first summer record for three years and one breeding pair at Dagnam Park was the first confirmed report for several years. It continues to remain fairly scarce in Kent and particularly Herts, where the number of breeding pairs reported has dropped by well over 70% in four years. Most reports were of 1-2 pairs. Three or more pairs were located at: Aimes Green, four; Bushy Park, 6-9 nests (as in 1997); Osterley Park, 4-5 pairs (3-4 in 1997); and Richmond Park, four (as in 1997). Pairs in the breeding season given below for the last five years.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Essex	15	16	10	6	5	13
Herts	14	12	9	9	5	3
Middx	9+	8	14	14	16	19
Bucks	3	2	4	9	4	3
Kent	2	4	3	3	2	1
Surrey	11+	9	14	10	14	13



It was widely reported outside the breeding season and included up to six in the Munden Park area of Herts in January and February and one at Barking Marsh on Nov 14th - an unusual site for the species.

0761 Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Status: common breeding resident.

Our most widespread owl remained well distributed across the Area but a continued decline is still much in evidence. It has now disappeared from much of suburban Essex and although numbers at Hainault Forest appear to be stable at about six pairs, this represents a substantial decline on the population 20 years ago. It continues to be well represented in Middlesex and Surrey and more were found in Kent this year. The largest breeding concentrations included: Epping Forest, locally distributed throughout the forest but numbers are lower than ten years ago; Epsom Common, three males; Hainault Forest, 5-6 pairs; Weald Park, three pairs (four in 1997); and Wimbledon Common, five territories. Most other reports concerned 1-2 pairs only. Any reports of local fluctuations would be welcomed by the recorders. Inner London records are given below.

Middx *Inner London*: Belsize Square, NW3, one hunting on Feb 3rd, one pair probably bred - young calling in June and two adults calling on Dec 11th. Compayne Gardens, NW6, one calling during November and December. Green Park, one owlet picked up and ringed on June 1st - later released in St James's Park. Holland Park, one pair bred. Hyde Park, one pair thought to have bred (none in 1997). Paddington Green, W2, calling on Feb 23rd, 25th and Dec 12th. Regent's Park, three males held territory (as in 1997).

1997 Additional record

Middx *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, one nest found along The Mall.

0767 Long-eared Owl***Asio otus***

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare breeder.

As in most recent years there was an absence of any large scale invasions and in consequence winter numbers were again low. The only roosts were at two traditional Thames-side sites in Essex and Kent, while a second smaller roost was occupied for a time in Essex in November. Up to 13 were present during the first-winter period and a similar number during the last two months of the year.

Breeding season records were again much in evidence, with 1-2 pairs breeding in Essex and two in Kent. It is probable that other pairs were present in parts of Essex and that other pairs breed undetected elsewhere in the London Area. All records are given below.

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Essex | One pair bred unsuccessfully at a site used in previous years while at least one pair was present during the breeding season at a locality on Thames-side. Locality withheld, five roosting January to March and again from October to December. At a second locality two were roosting from October until the year's end. Barking Bay, one on Nov 21st (AJD). |
| Middx | Lower Feltham, one found dead on Feb 15th. |
| Kent | Locality withheld, one pair bred with at least 2-3 young in July. At a second nearby site one pair bred rearing two young. Dartford Marsh, up to eight in January, one in February; four in November and six in December. Thames Barrier area, one N on Nov 8th (DM). |
| Surrey | Chelsham, one flew SW on Oct 9th (BH). |

0768 Short-eared Owl***Asio flammeus***

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in summer.

Wintering and passage numbers during the first quarter of the year were very low, and reflected the scarcity of records during the last two months of 1997 and the wintering numbers further out on the Essex and Kent coasts. The only birds present during the first two months of the year were 1-2 at Rainham Marsh, and even at this traditional site birds were very hard to see. There was little evidence of the usual passage in spring but numbers at Rainham did increase during late March.

There was a welcome return to normal at the end of the year with a particularly strong arrival in October. The first bird was on the early date of Aug 28th and was followed by a scattering of migrants during September. There was a widespread arrival from early October onwards with birds seen in several localities - mainly in Essex with many remaining some days. There was another more localised arrival at the end of the month and early November, by which time many of the earlier arrivals

had begun to disperse across the London Area. Most of the subsequent wintering birds were in Essex - at Rainham Marsh in particular. Here at least 8-10 were present by the year's end - the highest winter numbers for some years. All records are given.

- Essex Barking Marsh, up to two from Oct 5th to Nov 22nd (AJD,KB,GH). Chingford Plain, up to two from Oct 5th to Nov 1st (KM *et al*). Dagenham Chase, one on Nov 12th and 13th and Dec 12th and 13th (KB,BE,LH). Epping Forest, one at Hollow Ponds on Sept 15th (ELBF). Fairlop, up to two from Oct 3rd to Nov 1st (AAB). Leyton, one at Rainham Marsh, 1-2 from January to the end of February with four until the end of March. Singles on Oct 15th and 17th up to 13 at the end of October and early November and 8-10 wintering by the end of the year into 1999 (mo). Walthamstow, one flew E on Oct 11th (DL). Whipps Cross Hospital on Sept 13th (GJ).
- Herts London Colney, one flew S on Oct 5th (LM). Tyttenhanger GP, one on Oct 2nd.
- Middx Brent Res, singles on Oct 11th (RB), Oct 14th and Nov 1st (ASMS). Hounslow Heath, one on Sept 4th and 5th (PC). Staines Res, one on Aug 28th (DJM). Wormwood Scrubs, one on Oct 7th (GSE). *Inner London*: Regent's Park two SW on Nov 8th (ARD,DJ).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one SW on Nov 27th (JAS).
- Surrey Beddington SW, singles on Oct 7th, 20th and 23rd (BBR). South Norwood CP, one on Mar 28th (JB). Worcester Park, one on Oct 11th (RES).

0778 Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*
 Status: rare breeding summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

At least two pairs continued to occupy a traditional site in Surrey, but no reports were received from elsewhere and it would appear unfortunately, that breeding in Bucks has ceased. This disappointing downturn in the species fortunes in the London Area contrasts with the improved position in parts of southern and eastern England. However hopes are still high that it might re-colonise some of its traditional haunts in the other parts of the area as much suitable habitat still exists.

- Surrey Locality withheld: At least two churring males from May 12th until July 18th with display noted and at least one pair present (PJO,KCO,KN,BJT *et al*).

0795 Swift *Apus apus*
 Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first of the year, at Walton Res, on Apr 16th, was followed by a general arrival in most areas from the 21st onwards. Arrival was earlier than in most recent years with some breeding birds back in the last week of

April. Spring passage flocks were largely unexceptional peaking towards the end of May and included, 1000 at Beddington SF on the 13th, 500 at Rainham Marsh and 840 at Walthamstow Res on the 23rd, 550 at Queen Elizabeth II Res on the 26th and 500 at Hilfield Park Res, 2,182 in two hours over Middlesex Filter Beds and 1200 at Walthamstow Res on the 27th.

As noted last year breeding numbers appear to have declined, but there were few reports of significant changes in breeding populations. It was described as scarce in the Greenwich area, but in the Collier Row and Romford areas the breeding population showed a slight increase on the last 2-3 years. Although there were no Inner London breeding reports for the fourth successive year, many birds in the Primrose Hill area on June 30th showed food bolus - indicating local breeding.

Mid-summer flocks were fewer in number and included only two significant flocks: 1,500 at Hilfield Park Res on June 2nd and 1,000+ at Queen Mary Res on June 27th. There was an early departure of breeding birds - most had gone by the end of July and passage was well underway by early August, albeit in small numbers. Unusually there was a late peak in passage movement during late August with 200 at Brent Res on the 22nd and 24th, with 150 present on the 27th and 200 moving S over South Norwood Lake on the 29th. Small numbers continued to be reported during the first two weeks of September, with the last at Queen Mary Res on the 16th.

Middx *Inner London:* No confirmed breeding records were received although birds summered in a few areas and may have bred locally. One at Edgware Road on May 31st made repeated passes at a piece of floating paper and could indicate breeding activity in the area. Present from Apr 27th to Sept 1st with peaks of 130 at Paddington Green, W2, on May 26th with 150 flying NNW there on June 7th and 450 on July 3rd, and 100+ over Regent's Park on May 26th. A grounded juvenile was rescued at Cholmley Gardens, NW6. Smaller flocks were widely reported across central London - often during or preceding thunder or rainstorms.

0831 Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

Status: breeding resident, locally common in some areas.

There was a welcome increase in the number of summering birds with about 64 pairs reported (up from 44-47 in 1996/7) and about on a par with the population in the mid-1990s. All counties recorded an increase particularly in Bucks, Kent and Herts, but the population in Essex and Herts is still well below what it was four years ago. All reports concerned 1-2 pairs but some stretches of river are still without breeding pairs and it may well be that pollution is still an important factor limiting the species in London. One at Bookham Common on Dec 17th was the first for some

years, while a pair at Rainham Marsh was the first summering pair for about five years. At Rye House Marsh one pair successfully raised three broods.

It was widely reported, outside the breeding season particularly from late summer onwards. Five were present at Sevenoaks Reserve on Sept 2nd and up to five in the Fishers Green area from Nov 1st until the year's end. Number of summering pairs for each sector for the last five years and Inner London records are given below.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Essex	15	22	8	9	9	13
Herts	17	12	1	11	8	10
Middx	10+	8	8	6	6	12
Bucks	4+	4+	1	5	4	6
Kent	12	10	11	3	8	13
Surrey	12+	5+	9	13	9	10+

Middx *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, singles on June 17th and Aug 5th. Limehouse, singles in May, July and December. Regent's Park, one on Sept 22nd.

Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, singles on Feb 1st, Nov 3rd and Dec 17th.

1997 Additional records

Surrey Inner London: singles on July 24th and Sept 9th.

0846 Hoopoe

Upupa epops

Status: Vary scarce passage migrant, almost always in spring.

Essex Hainault Forest, one on Mar 30th (VGeorge per MKD).

With barely annual records in the last decade this species has become a very rare visitor the London Area. The Hainault Forest bird -the first for the site, recalls a similar early record from Foots Cray Meadows on Mar 27th 1994.

1997 Additional record

Surrey Sanderstead, one in a garden in mid-August, flew off ESE (JTy).

0848 Wryneck

Jynx torquilla

Status: scarce passage migrant, usually in autumn

Herts Rye Meads, singles on Sept 13th and Nov 7th (RMRG). St Albans, one feeding in a garden on Sept 5th (JD).

Three were reported - all in Herts - during 1998 after the welcome return in 1997 by this enigmatic woodpecker.

1997 Additional Record

Surrey Purley, one on Sept 29th (JCy).

0856 Green Woodpecker***Picus viridis***

Status: common breeding resident.

As in 1997, this increasing resident, was reported from well over 150 localities throughout the London Area, maintaining its increased profile of recent years. Its expansion into suburban areas and along Thames-side is continuing while in its prime habitat of open woodland and parkland numbers are also still increasing. Up to two pairs bred again at Rainham Marsh, with at least two pairs in the Dartford/Littlebrook area on the other side of the river. Further upriver, single pairs probably bred at both Barking Marsh and Beckton, - extending the range on the north bank of the River Thames since *The Essex Breeding Atlas*. One in a suburban garden in Collier Row on Aug 14th was the first there for over 40 years while a juvenile on telephone posts at the western edge of Rainham Marsh on Sept 19th was well away from any trees and still heading westward towards London! There was a marked increase in Inner London and although there was no confirmed breeding this year, summering birds were present at several sites. A bird in Victoria Park in east London may indicate a further expansion from parts of metropolitan Essex. There was an increase in the number of localities in Middlesex (up from six in 1997 to 13 in 1998) however it still remains very under recorded in this sector.

Counts of breeding pairs and comments on status included: Alexandra Park, four pairs; Beaulieu Heights Wood, four pairs (3 in 1997); Beddington SF, five pairs; Bricket Wood area, 15 territories (9-11 in 1997); Chipstead Lake, up to four pairs - "increasing"; Garston area, six territories, (five in 1997); Hainault Forest, 13-14 pairs - "numbers highest on record"; Havering CP, five pairs (four in 1997); Nower Wood, two territories (same as in 1996/7); SW Herts "an excellent year - population highest on record"; and Wimbledon Common, "still increasing".

The number of localities recording the species during the last six years and a summary of Inner London records are given below:

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Essex	30+	15+	14+	13+	28+
Herts	20+	20+	23	19	28+
Middx	11	14	16	6	13
Bucks	16	26	30	26	33
Kent	23	22	11	33	32
Surrey	31	30	28	37	28
Inner London	3	2	5	4	13

Middx *Inner London*: Aberdare Gardens, NW6, singles on Oct 8th and 18th. Buckingham Palace, seen regularly throughout the year. Compayne Gardens, NW6, single birds on Feb 6th, 8th and 24th with another during

December. Hampstead Cemetery, NW6, one during December. Holland Park, one male January to April failed to attract a mate. Hyde Park, seen regularly from Mar 14th to Apr 26th. Kensal Green Cemetery, one on Nov 4th. Kensington Gardens, seen regularly throughout the year. Primrose Hill, up to two in October and singles on Nov 25th and Dec 2nd. Regent's Park, present all year with a juvenile seen in July. Victoria Park, single birds in November and December.

Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one on Sept 28th and Oct 5th.

0876 Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Status: common breeding resident.

The commonest woodpecker was reported across the London Area, with the population probably at its highest level for over 40 years. As in recent years it is moving into more marginal habitats - with less extensive woodland cover, including suburban gardens and farmland. Along Thames-side in Essex it is continuing to expand with one pair breeding at Rainham Marsh for the first time and with others being reported as far upriver as Barking Marsh and Beckton during the latter half of the year. It has also consolidated its position in the Lower Lea Valley, with pairs nesting at Walthamstow Reservoir and in the Essex Filter Beds area and birds present at nearby Hackney Marshes.

Counts and comments on status in favoured localities included: Arbrook Common, four pairs (as in 1997); Bexley Wood, four pairs; Bricket Wood area, 18 territories (20 pairs in 1997); Epping Forest, widespread and locally common throughout the forest; Garston area, seven territories (4-5 in 1997); Hainault Forest, 24-25 pairs (22 pairs in 1997); Havering CP, eight pairs (as in 1997); Morden Hall Park, three pairs (five in 1997); Ongar Park Wood, four pairs bred (2-3 in 1991); and Pinner Park Farm, four pairs. A summary of Inner London records is given below.

Middx *Inner London*: Aberdare Gardens, NW6, singles in June, September, October and November. Buckingham Palace, singles on Apr 15th and May 1st. Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, one calling on Aug 11th. Clifton Hill, NW8, one on June 29th. Compayne Gardens, NW6, one drumming during April, one in June and up to two November/December. Holland Park, seen regularly throughout the year and at least one pair bred. Hyde Park, one pair bred. Kensington Gardens, seen regularly throughout the year. Little Venice, one on May 17th. Paddington Green, W2, singles on June 19th and Oct 4th. Primrose Hill, seen throughout the year with up to five on July 2nd and a juvenile in late June. Regent's Canal, one on Apr 26th and June 29th. Regent's Park, one pair bred. St James's Park, one on Sept 24th. Steele's Road, NW3, one throughout June and July. Westbourne Green, one on Nov 4th.

Surrey *Inner London*: Brunswick Park, a female on Feb 24th and Mar 15th. Surrey Docks, singles in April, May and October with three on Oct 16th - two of which flew high W, one in November.

0887 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker***Dendrocopos minor***

Status: common, but elusive, breeding resident.

This remains the scarcest of our resident woodpeckers and, in contrast to the preceding two species, has undergone a marked decline in many parts of the Area. At Hainault Forest only 2-3 pairs were found, down from at least six pairs a decade ago. Most other breeding reports were of 1-2 pairs only. One at Rainham Marsh on Aug 29th was the fourth site record (on a day when all three woodpeckers were present on site for the first time ever!). Breeding season reports (pairs in parentheses - one unless stated otherwise) and Inner London records are given below along with a table showing localities reporting the species for the last three years:

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Inner London	Bucks	Kent	Surrey
1998	23	15	22	2	3	28	32
1997	18	25	14	2	4	15	31
1996	11	13	14	2	9	8	32

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, Berwick Ponds, Dagnam Park, Epping Forest (single pairs in at least four areas), Hainault Forest (2-3), Havering CP, Mores Wood, Thorndon Park, Toot Hill, Wanstead Park, Weald Park.
- Herts Amwell GP, Bricket Wood area (2), Garston area (2), Otterspool.
- Kent Bexley Wood (2), Foots Cray Meadows, Maryon Wilson Park.
- Middx Alexandra Park, Brentford, Enfield, Tottenham Cemetery. *Inner London*: Regent's Park one on July 25th (ARD,DJ). Victoria Park one on June 6th (DWH).
- Bucks Black Park and Langley Park.
- Surrey Beaulieu Heights Wood, Bookham Common (2), Dulwich Park, Joseph Hood Rec Ground, Nower Wood, Wimbledon Common (2).

0974 Woodlark***Lullula arborea***

Status: scarce passage migrant and recently re-established rare breeder.

For the fourth year running the species was present during the breeding season and was well represented as a passage bird across the region. At least three pairs bred in two counties (a slight reduction on the six singing males in 1997) and at least one pair reared two broods. The recent upsurge of passage birds was maintained. With the British population now much higher than it was a decade ago it is worth checking other likely breeding sites in the London area as well as being aware that the species is fast becoming a scarce double passage migrant through the area. All records are given.

- Essex Chingford Plain, singles on Sept 29th and 30th, with two on Oct 1st (RC, KM).
- Herts St Albans, one near Burston Garden Centre on Nov 5th and 6th (IB).

- Middx Hampstead Heath, one flew S on Oct 20th (PWD,WEO). Staines Res, one W on Nov 7th (PC). *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one on Feb 28th (DJ).
- Bucks Locality withheld, first on Feb 14th, 1-2 pairs bred.
- Kent Greenwich Park, one calling overhead on Nov 6th (JBe).
- Surrey Chelsham, one SE on Feb 10th (BJT). Locality withheld, two pairs present from Mar 30th, early breeding attempts frustrated by snow on Apr 15th, but at least two broods present. Horton CP, two feeding on edge of path on Apr 3rd (AQ). *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, five flew S on Oct 9th (RK).

0976 Skylark***Alauda arvensis***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Very few flocks of any size were reported during the first-winter period, by far the largest being up to 150 at Rushett Farm during January and February. Numbers during the rest of the winter and spring were low and there was little evidence of any real passage in April and May.

There were again more breeding reports, many showing a slight increase in numbers. Significant counts and comments on status included: Arkley Fields, 20 pairs; Barking Marsh 20 pairs; Barwell Court Farm, two territories (same as in 1997 but down from nine in 1978); Belhus Woods CP, ten territories; Brickett Wood area, 21 territories (up from 18-20 territories in 1997); Bushy Park 11 territories; Corbets Tey, 8-10 pairs; Crayford Marsh at least 20 singing males; Fairlop, 20 pairs, Holmethorpe SP, 13 pairs (seven in 1997); Hornchurch CP, 12-14 pairs (numbers stable); Moor Hill, five pairs (two in 1997); Potters Crouch area, 29 territories (34 in 97); Rainham Marsh, 91 territories located during a special survey (up from 50 in 1997); and the Walton Heath area, 11 pairs. In addition at least three pairs bred as far up the River Thames as North Woolwich (as in 1997) and five pairs were located in the Silvertown area (4-5 in 1997).

Passage movements in autumn took place, as usual from mid-September onwards, but as in 1997 were well below average. The only three figure counts were 100 in the Beddlesstead Valley on Oct 7th and 108 over Regent's Park and 150 moving west over Hampstead Heath, both on Nov 7th. Elsewhere few counts exceeded 50 and peaked in early October and again in early November. Winter numbers were also unremarkable with the largest numbers being 100 at Rainham Marsh on Dec 6th and 28th. Inner London records are given below.

- Middx *Inner London*: Primrose Hill, singles on Oct 7th and 14th, 12 on 15th, and two on 20th. Regent's Canal, one flew NW on Oct 20th. Regent's Park, singles on Feb 2nd; Mar 28th and 30th; Oct 10th and 18th, two on 20th and 30th; singles on Nov 2nd and 4th, 108 on 7th, three on 10th and 12th.

Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, three on Oct 9th, one on 15th, two on 16th and three on Nov 6th.

0978 Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*
Status: rare visitor.

Essex Rainham Marsh, one Nov 7th (MKD).

This record, the 13th for the London Area was not unexpected given the numbers present on the Essex and Kent coasts at the time. The Rainham bird may well have been there the previous day. The last London records were in 1996.

0981 Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first of the year were two over Queen Mother Res on Mar 7th followed by a single at King George V Res on Mar 12th and a small party at Thorpe Water Park on Mar 15th. Several other localities noted their first birds from Mar 17th onward. The first main wave of passage birds did not arrive until late in March and early April with up to 100 at Fishers Green on Apr 1st for example. Passage continued well into April but it was not until the middle of the month when larger numbers arrived. Three-figure counts included 100 again at Fishers Green on the 14th, and 112 at Walton Res on the 24th. Thereafter numbers were unexceptional and apart from 100 at Danson Park on May 5th, did not exceed 50.

Breeding records came from 11 sites (a similar position to 1997) and unless the species is under recorded it would appear that a serious decline has taken place in the last five years. In some parts, in outer Essex for example, the gradual filling and 'landscaping' of former gravel workings may be a factor limiting the availability of 'natural' nest sites. Observers are urged to report all breeding records. The few breeding records are given in full.

Essex Albert Basin, 4-5 pairs bred in City Airport Dock wall. Barking, eight pairs bred along the River Roding. Fairlop, "a few pairs bred" in a new gravel pit. Rainham GP, 16-20 nest holes in new bank.

Herts Grand Union Canal, six nests in the Rickmansworth area.

Kent Ruxley GP, several pairs breeding on nearby golf course.

Middx Harefield, five pairs using artificial nest along the canal. Tottenham Marsh 4-5 pairs bred in drainage holes along flood relief channel.

Surrey Hogsmill SF, three nest holes. Holmethorpe SP, 80 pairs bred but only 23 holes were occupied by mid-July. Long Ditton, 3-5 pairs bred. Rainham Marsh held the monopoly on mid-summer flocks with 200 on July 2nd, 150 on July 11th, 300 on July 18th and 100 on July 31st. Autumn passage

was very poor with few counts exceeding 50 most birds appearing to have departed by late August. A small late passage was apparent in mid-September which included 120 at Rainham Marsh on the 13th - the only flock of note during the whole autumn passage. Very few were seen after this with the last at Staines Res on Oct 9th.

- Middx *Inner London*: Paddington Green, W2, one on June 12th (DM). Regent's Park, four on May 12th, one on Aug 24th, three on Aug 29th, singles on Sept 7th, and 8th and two on 14th and 15th (ARD,DJ).
- Surrey *Inner London*: Burgess Park, five on Sept 9th (SG).

0992 Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

As with the previous species, Queen Mother Res claimed the first of the year on Mar 27th with other March records from Dartford Marsh, Fairlop, Middlesex Filter Beds, Nazeing GP and Rye Meads SF. The first main arrival was during the first two weeks of April, when most areas received their first birds. Numbers were unexceptional with the largest count of only 60 - at Fairlop on Apr 21st.

Early August saw the first returning passage movements but numbers were generally below average throughout the autumn. However there was an improvement in the number of three figure counts reported (nine compared with only six in 1997), most during September. These included: 100 at Rainham Marsh on Aug 26th; 120 at Beddington SF on Sept 1st; 100 over Hampstead Heath on Sept 8th; 100 flew S over Morden Hall Park on Sept 12th; 200 at Staines Res on Sept 12th and 13th; 126 at Pinner Park Farm on Sept 14th, with 115 there on Sept 18th; 100 at Passingford Bridge on Oct 7th; and 307 - the largest count of the year at Brent Res on Oct 9th. Small numbers continued to be reported well into late October but there was only one November record - at Barn Elms WWT on the 1st.

Breeding records and all Inner London records are given below:

- Essex Hainault Forest, 3-5 pairs. Rainham Marsh, four pairs.
- Herts Bricket Wood area, six territories. Garston Area, three territories. SW Herts, single pairs bred at most suitable sites.
- Middx Bentley Priory, four pairs bred. Lower Priory Farm, Stanmore, five pairs.
Inner London: Kensington Gardens, one on Apr 29th. Paddington Green, W2, 19 on May 10th and five on 15th. Primrose Hill, two on Sept 16th, one on 17th and three on Oct 8th. Regent's Canal, three on Sept 22nd and four on Oct 8th. Regent's Park, present on 31 days between Apr 21st and Oct 20th, (one mid-summer record on June 11th), peak counts included 60 on Sept 15th, 90 on 16th and 60 on 21st. Whitechapel, 20+ on Oct 12th.
- Bucks In south Bucks it was absent as a breeding species from some traditional farm sites.

Surrey Barwell Court Farm, three territories in CBC plot (one in 1997). Limpsfield Moat, two pairs bred. Park Farm Chessington, two pairs bred. Garstons Farm, West End Common, five nests. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, singles on Apr 23rd and Sept 28th. Waterloo Station, two on Apr 21st.

1001 House Martin

Delichon urbica

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Arrival was rather later than usual with the first at Walton-on-Thames on Apr 5th. Few were seen during the following week, but a general arrival, in small numbers, was evident by the 19th onwards. The largest counts were mainly in late April/early May and included 100 at Walton Res on Apr 23rd, 200 at Staines Res and 100 over Stanwell Moor on the 25th, 100 at Staines Res on 26th, 100 at Brent Res on May 2nd and 250 at Nazeing GP on May 26th.

There appears to be no end to the decline in the breeding population which first became apparent in the early 1990s. Most reports were of very low numbers, continued declines or a complete absence of birds during the breeding season. All breeding comments and records are given, and observers are urged to send in all breeding records so that a thorough assessment of the breeding status in London can be made:

- Essex Collier Row, none located breeding (1-2 pairs in 1997). Hornchurch, c20 nests on St George's Hospital, (60+ nests a decade ago). North Woolwich, four pairs (6-8 in 1997). Rainham Village area, 3-4 pairs at two sites. Romford, two pairs. Waltham Abbey, 12 nests at one colony.
- Herts Abbots Langley, three plus nests. Brickett Wood area, one nest (three in 1997), Garston area, at least seven nests. Hunton Bridge Hill, one nest. Park Street, one nest.
- Middx Hampstead, NW3, none in the former colonies. Hornsey, 42 nests (49 in 1997). Stanmore four nests. *Inner London*: Cambridge Ave, NW6, two pairs. Chelsea Wharf, two pairs. Dunstan Road, E8, eight nests occupied at Samuel House. Hyde Park, seven pairs (six in 1997). Regent's Park Road, NW1, one nest. Salmon Lane, E14, four pairs.
- Kent Bexley, one pair. Blackheath, one pair. Charlton, one nest at Atlas Gardens. Down, one pair, Greenwich, two pairs. Royal Hill, three pairs. Littlebrook PS, two adults at the pier colony - poor numbers. Petts Wood, one pair at Shepperton Road, not breeding locally now. Thames Barrier area, only one pair bred.
- Surrey Belmont, three nests. Berrylands area, eight pairs nesting at three sites. Bookham Common, 13 nests. Carshalton Beeches four nests (four in 1997). Caterham, three nest building - now very scarce in area. Chessington, one pair bred. Hackbridge, 30 nests (21 in 1997). Long Ditton area, eight nests, (12 in 1997). Molesey area, 137 nests in census area (142 nests in 1997). Oxted town centre, 9-13 nests. Sanderstead, one pair. Surbiton, two nests (three in 1997). West End Common area,

21 nests. Wimbledon Common, a few pairs located. *Inner London*: Bermondsey, two nests occupied. Surrey Docks, 13 nests located but not all active.

There were few mid-summer counts of any note and the return passage began in late July. Numbers were unexceptional however and peaked in two main waves: in late August/early September and again in mid-September (particularly from 12th to 18th). Large counts included: Aug 23rd, 200+ at Staines Res; Aug 24th, 500 at Staines Res and 392 at Middlesex Filter Beds; Sept 3rd, 243 at Middlesex Filter Beds; Sept 5th, 1,105 at Essex Filter Beds; Sept 9th, 245 at Barn Elms WWT and 200+ at Regent's Park; Sept 10th, 246 at Walton Res; Sept 11th, 220 at Essex Filter Beds; Sept 12th, 450 at Hilfield Park Res and 2,000 at Staines Res; Sept 13th, 280 at Brent Res, 600 at Fishers Green, 250 at Regent's Park and 2,000 at Staines Res; Sept 15th, 250 at Berwick Ponds; Sept 16th, 200 at Titsey; and on Sept 18th, 203 at Essex Filter Beds. Small numbers continued to be reported until the middle of October but the only flock of note was 100 at Staines Res on Oct 8th. Although most had gone by the end of the month there was a small passage during the last week concentrated in Essex. The three November records all came from this sector; two at both Weald Park and Whitehall Plain, Epping Forest on the 4th and one hawking round the old targets at Rainham Marsh on the 20th.

Middx *Inner London*: Outside the breeding season it was widely reported from nearly 20 localities across Inner London between Apr 21st and Oct 15th. Peak counts included: Kensington Gardens, 50+ on May 24th, Paddington Green, W2, 100 flew NW on Aug 30th, Regent's Park, 60 on Aug 24th, 70 on Aug 25th, 100 on Sept 1st, 150+ on 3rd, 200+ on 9th, 250+ 13th, and up to 50 on 17th and 18th.

1002 Richards Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
Status: rare passage migrant

Essex Chingford Plain, one from Oct 23rd to Nov 1st (KM *et al*).
Middx Wormwood Scrubs, one on Sept 29th (GSE).

London's 17th and 18th records. The ratio of autumn to spring records is now 2:1 whereas the national average is nearer 9:1.

1009 Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*
Status: passage migrant and decreasing breeding summer visitor

The number of singing males showed a small increase due to the increased number reported in the Surrey heaths. There were no records of singing males from Buckinghamshire or Middlesex and although there

was one in song at Crayford in Kent it stayed for one day only. The first spring record was one at Tyttenhanger GP on Mar 23rd. There were only about 17 spring migrants recorded away from the breeding areas, but with some sites recording only first and last dates exact numbers are not known, and about 31 reported on passage in the autumn. Numbers were low with no site recording more than three on any day. The last bird of the year was at Beddington SF on Oct 18th. The small increase in numbers recorded in the breeding season may reflect some improvement in habitat at the available sites in Surrey.

Number of singing male Tree Pipits in the London Area 1993-98.

Year	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
No of Males	20+	12-13	17-18	21-22	13	20-21

The summary shows the breeding season distribution with numbers of singing males in parentheses and all Inner London Records.

- Essex Chingford Plain (1-2). Epping Forest, other than Chingford Plain (4). Marylands GC (1). Sewardstonebury (1), but may be one of the Chingford Plain birds.
- Herts Mymmshall Wood (1). Symondshyde, Great Wood (1).
- Middx *Inner London*: Primrose Hill, one on Sept 17th (DM). Regent's Park, one on Aug 18th, two on Sept 12th and one on Sept 17th (ARD,DJ).
- Surrey Holt Wood, Chelsham (1). Headley Heath (1). Limpsfield Chart (4). Walton Heath (5).

1997 Correction

- Surrey *Inner London*: South Bermondsey, one on May 22nd not May 2nd.

1011 Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor and common but increasingly localised breeder.

In the first part of the year highest counts were 60 at Vicarage Farm and 50 at Rainham Marsh in January, and 80 at Limpsfield and 50 at Hersham in February. Spring passage was recorded from mid-March to mid-May with the highest counts being 80 at Perry Oaks on Mar 28th, 165 at Beddington SF in April and 70 at Rye Meads SF on Apr 19th. The largest numbers in autumn were noted from mid-September to the end of October: Barking Bay, 140 flew W on Sept 19th; Barn Elms, 141 on Sept 12th; Beddington SF, 140 in September and 200 in October; Rainham Marsh, 200 on Sept 12th and 150 on Oct 18th. The highest winter count in the second part of the year was 100 at Rainham Marsh.

Records of singing males or known breeding pairs (with numbers in parentheses) are shown below as well as Inner London records.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (30). Belhus Woods CP (2-3). Corbets Tey (8-10). Dagenham Chase (2). Essex Filter Beds (1). Fairlop Lake/Plain (8-10). Hornchurch CP (15-18). Rainham Marsh (47).
- Herts Abbots Langley (1+). Arkley Fields (1). Bowyer's GP (1-2).
- Middx Bushy Park (4-6). Perry Oaks SF (1). *Inner London*: Little Venice, singles on Nov 4th and 5th. Orchardson Street, NW8, two on Oct 19th. Paddington Green, eight on Sept 15th, five on 16th one on 29th and 15 on Oct 15th. Primrose Hill, a total of 232 bird/days recorded from Sept 14th to Oct 20th, with a peak of 173 mainly flying WNW on Oct 15th. Regent's Canal, two on Oct 19th. Regent's Park, one on Feb 1st; in spring a total of 32 bird/days recorded from Mar 11th to Apr 20th with a maximum of eight on Mar 30th; in the autumn a total of 314 bird/days recorded from Sept 12th to Nov 27th, with peaks of 40 on Sept 15th and 32 on Oct 15th.
- Kent Crayford Marsh (10+). Dartford Marsh (10+). Swanscombe Marsh (4+). Woodlands Farm, Welling (2-4). Woolwich Common (7).
- Surrey Chertsey Meads (4). Hersham GP (1). Holmethorpe SP (3). Molesey Heath (1). Riddlesdown, South Croydon (3). Walton Heath (9). *Inner London*: Nunhead Station, three on Mar 30th. Surrey Docks, 64 between Sept 14th and Nov 6th with a peak of 36 on Oct 15th.

1997 Correction

- Bucks Three pairs bred at Woodlands Park, not at Woodlands Farm.

1012 Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Status: very rare vagrant.

- Surrey Beddington SF, one flew over on Oct 3rd (JPA *et al*).

The tenth record for the London Area. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

1014 Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

The wintering population was mainly along the River Thames. Passage away from the Thames was noted at eight sites in spring and 13 sites in autumn. Passage numbers were low with no more than three birds at any site away from wintering areas.

- Essex Banbury Res, one on Dec 21st. Barking Bay/Marsh, one on Oct 18th, four on Nov 1st, 12 on 7th and one on Dec 13th. Beckton, three on Mar 7th, ten on Nov 30th and up to three in December. Cornmill Meads, one on Mar 12th. Dagenham Chase, one on Mar 20th. Fairlop Plain, one on Mar 15th. Grays, one on Feb 8th. Ilford, one (or possibly a Water Pipit) flew over on Oct 30th. King George V Res, singles on Mar 23rd, 25th and 27th; Nov 14th; Dec 4th and 7th. Rainham Marsh, maxima of eight in

- January, nine in February, six in March; five in October, 32 in November and 14 in December. Walthamstow Res, one N on Sept 26th. West Thurrock, one on Dec 28th and four on 31st. Wm Girling Res, singles on Mar 17th and 29th, Sept 14th and Nov 21st.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, singles on Sept 29th and Oct 3rd. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Oct 7th and 9th.
- Middx Brent Res, singles on Oct 5th and Nov 15th. King George VI Res, one on Mar 15th. Wormwood Scrubs, one on Oct 8th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, three on Oct 9th and singles on Oct 26th and Nov 8th (ARD,DJ).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one reported from Jan 1st to Mar 23rd with three on Feb 26th; singles on Sept 24th and Oct 5th; three on 6th, and one from 10th to the end of the year.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, including Littlebrook PS and Long Reach SF, maxima five in January and three records in the autumn. Swanscombe Marsh, 15 on Jan 11th; six on Feb 1st, including a bird colour ringed in Gothenberg, Sweden; 14 on Mar 1st and one on Dec 13th. Sydenham, one flew over on Oct 10th. Thames Barrier, one from Jan 1st to Jan 26th and one from Oct 31st to the end of the year. Thamesmead, six on Dec 24th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, two on Oct 3rd and singles on 5th, 18th and Nov 15th. Beddington SF, singles on Feb 23rd; Mar 16th; and Oct 3rd, 6th, 7th, 9th, 13th and 17th. Island Barn Res, two on Mar 17th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on Mar 8th. Walton Res, one on Oct 9th.

Many birds, particularly in spring, showed characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A. p. littoralis*. In the autumn one at Wm Girling Res on Sept 14th was identified as this race; however during the winter months the races are indistinguishable. The spring plumage starts to become apparent during February and at least eight of the 14 recorded at Swanscombe Marsh in March were identified as *A. p. littoralis* and it seems probable that most birds (if not all) found in London are of this race. For a discussion on this and the next species see *London Bird Report* No. 59 page 113.

1015 Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

Status: regular but localised winter visitor.

The total number of birds recorded for the year was at least 62, about the average for the last six years. Compared with 1997, wintering numbers at the main site of Rainham Marsh were slightly lower in the first part of the year but slightly higher in the second part and there was some increase at other sites. Records came from a total of 13 sites compared with nine in 1997. There was some evidence at sites other than the main wintering areas of a small passage in March. All records are given.

- Essex Beckton, one on Jan 3rd (AJD) and four on Jan 4th (DMI). Cornmill Meads, one on Jan 12th and 13th (ELBF), one on Mar 24th (PJV) and one on Apr 13th (WR). Hornchurch CP, one on Nov 22nd (MKD). Ingrebourne Valley, one on Nov 15th (SC). King George V Res, one on Nov 20th (AC).

Rainham Marsh, maxima of seven in January, ten in February, ten in March, and five in April, last noted on Apr 4th. In the second half of the year the first was on Oct 11th, there were maxima of six in October, nine in November and 12 in December (MKD,SRP *et al*). Sewardstone one on Mar 1st (KM).

Herts Rye Meads SF, maxima of one in January, February and March, and in second half of the year, three in October, five in November and six in December (RMRG,GJW).

Bucks Old Slade Lakes, one from Mar 17th to 24th (CDRH). Queen Mother Res, singles on Mar 17th and Nov 20th (JAS).

Kent Erith Marsh, one on Nov 29th (DM). Swanscombe Marsh, one on Mar 1st (PB).

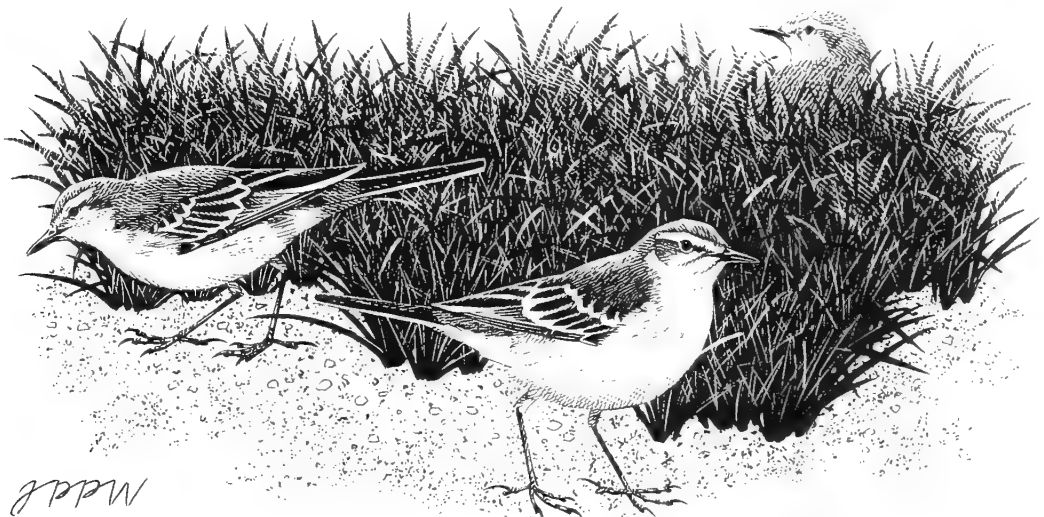
Surrey Barn Elms WWT, one on Nov 15th (NPS,BEBR). Beddington SF, monthly maxima: eight in January, four in February, three in March and two in April, last on Apr 4th; in autumn the first bird returned on Oct 9th, maxima one in October, ten in November and eight in December (BBR).

1017 Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing breeder.

The first spring migrant was at Queen Mother Res on Mar 30th; as for the last few years numbers were low, the highest counts being 17 at Fairlop Plain on Apr 13th and 18 at King George VI Res on Apr 21st. Passage continued to May 26th, although mainly in ones and twos. The number of passage birds has continued to decline and is now on the brink of disappearing as a breeding bird. Confirmed breeding pairs reached an all time low of 23-25, and as several of the breeding areas are those most threatened by development the future is not bright.



In Essex no breeding was reported from Fairlop Plain, two pairs bred near the Thames Barrier at Silvertown. However no breeding was reported from Herts, Surrey, or Kent. Records of birds at two sites at the end of May and beginning of June may indicate that there were one or two unfound pairs but its loss as a breeding bird from seven sites in these counties, including Beddington SF which until recently was a stronghold,

appears to be a real decline as most of these sites are well watched. Away from breeding areas autumn passage began on July 8th, with a bird at Vicarage Farm. Numbers were low until the last week of August when there were 50 at Rainham Marsh. In September passage was light with few counts in double figures, 15 on Sept 24th being the highest count in the last two weeks of the month. Records continued into October, the last being one at Barn Elms WWT on Oct 14th. A summary of breeding season records (numbers in parentheses) and reports from Inner London is given below.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (2-3), Corbets Tey (4), Cranham Marsh (2-3), Rainham GP (2), Rainham Marsh (6), Silvertown (2).
 Middx Perry Oaks SF (4). Tottenham Marsh (1). *Inner London*: Primrose Hill, singles on Sept 10th and Sept 17th. Regent's Park, spring passage, six between Apr 23rd and May 14th; autumn passage: 29 between Aug 25th and Sept 26th with a peak of five on Sept 17th (ARD,DJ).

1997 Additional records

- Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one on May 22nd (RK).
 Bucks Chandler's Hill, 42 on Sept 6th.

Records of birds showing the characteristics of races other than *M. f. flavissima* were as follows:

Blue-headed Wagtail

M. f. flava

- Essex Fairlop Lake/Plain, one on Apr 23rd and 24th (AAB). Fishers Green, one on Apr 26th. King George V Res, one on Apr 19th (KM).
 Herts Rye Meads, singles on May 2nd, 9th and 16th (RMRG). Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 21st (LM).
 Middx King George VI Res, one on Apr 23rd (FRC).
 Surrey Beddington SF, one on May 16th (BBR).

1997 Additional Record

- Middx Pinner Park Farm, one on May 3rd.

1019 Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were reports of 77 pairs present during the breeding season although breeding was not proved at every site and with the linear nature of the Grey Wagtails' territory it is possible that some duplication is involved. This is four more than in 1997 but probably does not indicate a significant change.

Breeding season totals are below and maximum counts are given along with Inner London records.

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Inner London	Bucks	Kent	Surrey
No of sites holding birds during the breeding season	16	7	8	5	3	14	24
Essex	Sites containing birds in the breeding season increased to 16 from eight in 1997. Banbury Res, six on Oct 10th. Barking Bay, four flew W on Sept 19th and six flew W on Oct 3rd. Beckton, four in November. Harold Wood SF, five in January. Walthamstow Res, seven in August, six in September and five in October.						
Herts	Hilfield Park Res, max three in October and November. Rye Meads, peak counts were four in January and three in February and March, breeding confirmed at this site for the first recorded time.						
Middx	Records in the breeding season were reported from eight sites (13 in 1997). Harefield, five along the Grand Union Canal on Jan 20th. No other sites recorded more than four birds. <i>Inner London</i> : Breeding season records from Limehouse, Postman's Park, Regent's Park and St Paul's. Outside the breeding season: Church Street, NW8; Limehouse; Lincoln's Inn Fields; Little Venice; Orchardson Street, NW8; Paddington Green; Primrose Hill; Regent's Canal, Islington; Regent's Canal, St John's Wood; Regent's Park, (maximum of nine on Sept 21st); St Christopher's Place, W1; and Victoria Park.						
Bucks	Reported from only three sites during the breeding season with no counts of more than two outside this period.						
Kent	Outside the breeding season widespread in small numbers. Four noted during a period of visible migration at Crystal Palace Park on Oct 11th.						
Surrey	Widely distributed but with an increase in sites reported to have birds in the breeding season from 17 to 24. Barn Elms WWT, five on Sept 12th. Beddington SF, eight on Dec 16th. <i>Inner London</i> : Breeding season records from St Saviour's Dock, Bermondsey (RK). Outside the breeding season reported from Lambeth Rd SE1 and Surrey Docks.						

1997 Additional record

Surrey *Inner London*: Millwall Football Ground, two on May 21st.

1020 Pied Wagtail***Motacilla alba***

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Large counts and roosts and Inner London records are summarised below.

Essex	Harold Wood SF, 180 on Jan 10th, 127 on Feb 2nd and 60 on Mar 1st. Hornchurch, Billet Lane, 100 on Nov 29th. Rainham Marsh, five or six pairs bred, 60 on Nov 11th. Walthamstow Filter Beds, 120 on Feb 5th and 145 on Sept 5th. Walthamstow Res, 110 on Mar 1st, four pairs bred.
Herts	Bricket Wood area, eight territories. North Watford, 25+ roosting in an industrial estate on Nov 5th. Rye Meads, 18 on Mar 28th.

- Middx Bushy Park, 30 on Sept 9th. Lower Holloway, N7, c100 roosting in trees from Oct 21st to the year's end. Staines Res, 50 on Nov 14th. Vicarage Farm, 53 on Oct 6th. Wood Green, 135 at shopping centre roost on Jan 4th. *Inner London*: Reported in the breeding season at: Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Limehouse, Temple Gardens, (a pair collecting food in May was thought to have bred on the South Bank or on a moored barge), and Victoria Park. Peak counts: Kensington Gardens, six on Oct 22nd; Limehouse, four in September; Primrose Hill, three on Oct 15th; Regent's Park, nine on Oct 15th and 12 on Oct 20th; Victoria Park, 44 in September, 48 in October and 49 in November
- Bucks Yiewsley Lake, 19 on Aug 30th.
- Kent Blackheath, 20 on Oct 10th. Dartford Marsh, 35 on Jan 27th. Erith Marsh, 22 on Dec 5th. Farnborough, 40-50 on Oct 25th. Greenwich Park, 17 on Oct 10th. Hornfair Park, Charlton, max 20 in April. Long Reach SF, 40+ on Jan 27th. Sevenoaks Reserve, 38, on Dec 16th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, maximum 56 in August. Barwell Court, three territories on CBC plot (one in 1997). Beddington SF, 90 on Nov 14th. Cobham, Norwood Farm, 40 on Jan 7th. Croydon, roost of 200 on Jan 1st, 100 on May 17th and 150 on Dec 12th. Epsom, Court Rec Ground, 33 on Feb 10th. Morden Hall Park, one territory. Rushett Farm, 35 on Nov 15th. West Byfleet, 80 at roost on Jan 20th. Wimbledon, 30 at a town centre roost on Dec 1st. *Inner London*: Burgess Park, 30 on Jan 4th, pair present in the breeding season. Surrey Docks, ten on Feb 10th, two territories in the breeding season, six flew over on Oct 15th.

1020.0 White Wagtail

M. a. alba

Status: passage migrant, rarely identified in autumn.

With at least 74 birds at 28 sites, 1998 was a slightly above average year, largely due to the unprecedented 19 at King George VI Res on Apr 19th. The first birds were singles at Brent Res and Perry Oaks SF on Mar 14th. There were eight in autumn, with the last at Vicarage Farm on Sept 30th.

- Essex Cornmill Meads, one on Mar 22nd. Dagenham Chase, two on Mar 23rd. Fairlop Lake, one on Apr 1st, two on 7th, one on 9th, three on 10th, four on 11th, three on 12th and 13th, four on 14th, two on 16th and one on 18th and 19th. Hall Marsh, one on Mar 20th, one on Apr 5th, singles from 13th to 15th, 17th and 27th. Hornchurch CP, one on Apr 13th. Rainham Marsh, one on Apr 13th. Walthamstow Res, one on Mar 15th, two on Apr 2nd, four on 13th and one on 22nd.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Apr 3rd and 11th. Colney Heath Lane, one on May 1st. Hilfield Park Res, singles on Apr 8th, 13th and 15th. London Colney, one on Apr 16th and 17th. Radlett, one from May 6th to 8th. Rye Meads SF, singles on Apr 19th and 22nd. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Apr 8th, from 10th to 13th, 16th, 18th and 19th, and 21st; three on Sept 9th, one on 10th and two on 14th.

- Middx Brent Res, one on Mar 14th, three on Apr 12th and one on 28th. King George VI Res, one on Apr 12th, four on 13th, one on 18th and 19 on 19th, one on 21st, six on 25th and one on 26th and 28th. Perry Oaks SF, singles on Mar 14th and May 2nd. Staines Res, two on Apr 22nd. Vicarage Farm, one on Sept 30th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Apr 7th and three on 11th.
- Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, one on Apr 11th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, one on Apr 29th. Beddington SF, one on Mar 29th, two on Apr 8th, singles on 10th, 15th, 23rd and May 17th and two on 18th. Island Barn Res, one on Apr 24th. Queen Elizabeth II Res, singles on Apr 20th, May 1st and 9th. Trevereux, one on Apr 12th. Warlingham, one on Sept 25th.

1997 Additional record

- Middx Pinner Park Farm, one on Apr 3rd.

1066 Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

Status: abundant resident.

After the sharp decline in numbers recorded in 1996 and the partial recovery in 1997 the number of breeding Wrens showed increases in several census areas, but with a few small decreases also noted. Fewer census plots were reported compared to 1997. A selection of records is given below.

- Essex Essex Filter Beds, 16 pairs bred, (ten in 1997). Hainault Forest, 60-70 pairs, (50 in 1997). More's Wood, 25 pairs, (21 in 1997). Rainham Marsh, 25-30 pairs bred (13-14 in 1997). Toot Hill, Coleman's Farm, 13 territories in CBC plot (10 in 1997).
- Herts Amwell GP, 18 singing males. Chess Valley, 15 singing males. Chorleywood Common, 19 singing males. Garston Area, 63 singing males in area surveyed. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, 21 singing males. Rye Meads SF, 32 singing males.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, four territories. Bushy Park, 23 territories (25 in 1997) in survey area. East India Dock Basin, three pairs. Middlesex Filter Beds, ten pairs bred (11 in 1997). Tower Hamlets Cemetery, 16 in May. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, a pair bred. Hyde Park, 12 territories in CBC plot (7-8 in 1997). Limehouse, maximum 13 in May. Primrose Hill, bred, four on June 29th. Regent's Canal, 14 singing between St John's Wood and Victoria Park. Regent's Park, eleven pairs bred. St James Park, five territories in CBC plot (seven in 1997). Victoria Park, maximum seven in May.
- Kent Beckenham Place Park, 11 territories. Bexley Wood, four territories. Ruxley GP, five singing in April. Sevenoaks Reserve, maximum nine in February. Woolwich Common, eight territories.
- Surrey Addington Hills, 19 on June 6th. Arbrook Common, 57 territories in CBC plot (33 in 1997). Ashted Common, 20 territories in CBC plot (15 in 1997). Barwell Court, 12 territories in CBC plot (14 in 1997). Beddington

SF, 47 territories (28 in 1997). Lloyd Park, Croydon, maximum 18 on May 30th. Long Ditton (Sugden Road), two territories in CBC plot (four in 1997). Morden Hall Park, 90 territories (a slight increase on 1997). Nower Wood, 25 territories in CBC plot (same as 1997). Park Farm, Chessington, 16 territories in CBC plot (17 in 1997). *Inner London*: Burgess Park, five singing males. Surrey Docks, a minimum of eleven singing in May. Kennington, one singing in breeding season.

1084 **Dunnock**

Prunella modularis

Status: abundant resident.

As in the previous species, fewer results of census plots were reported. Those that were received showed an overall increase although this was by no means consistent. Records of CBC counts, other notable breeding records and counts and Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Essex Filter Beds, six pairs bred (two in 1997). Hainault Forest, 50-60 pairs (50 in 1997). More's Wood, seven pairs bred (five in 1997). Rainham Marsh, 17 territories (five in 1997). Toot Hill, Coleman's Farm, eight territories in CBC plot (four in 1997).
- Herts Chess Valley, four singing males. Chorleywood Common, four singing males. Garston area, 50 territories in area surveyed. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, seven singing males. Rye Meads SF, 15 singing males.
- Middx Bushy Park, six territories in survey area, (nine in 1997). Middlesex Filter Beds, three pairs bred (same as 1997). Tower Hamlets Cemetery, maximum five in September. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, no breeding in 1998, (1-2 pairs present in 1997). Bunhill Fields, EC1, two present in February. Fortune Street, EC1, two present in February. Hyde Park, six territories in CBC plot (four or five in 1997). Kensington Gardens, one present in the breeding season (one pair bred in 1997). Limehouse, maximum of seven in September. Primrose Hill, two or three pairs bred. Regent's Canal, seven singing between St John's Wood and Victoria Park. Regent's Park, six pairs bred. St James Park, no territories in CBC plot (one in 1997). Toffee Park, Radnor Street, two in February. Victoria Park, maximum four in September.
- Kent Bexley Wood, four territories. Catford, River Pool, three territories. Hither Green Cemetery, five territories. Maryon Wilson Park, about ten territories (ten in 1997). Woolwich Common, two territories.
- Surrey Ashtead Common, 11 territories in CBC plot (nine in 1997). Barwell Court Farm, 13 territories in CBC plot (seven in 1997). Beddington SF, 19 territories (16 in 1997). Long Ditton (Sugden Road), one territory in CBC plot (two in 1997). Park Farm, Chessington, seven territories in CBC plot (five in 1997). Wimbledon Common 20 on Oct 3rd. *Inner London*: Burgess Park, two singing in May. Kennington, two singing in breeding season. Surrey Docks, four singing in May.

1099 Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

The results of census plots showed a reasonably stable breeding population with some decreases balanced by other increases. There was no evidence of any autumn or winter movements. Census counts are given below.

- Essex Essex Filter Beds, numbers remained stable at ten pairs. Hainault Forest, 60 plus territories (60 in 1997). More's Wood, 15 pairs (same as in 1997). Rainham Marsh, nine territories (same as 1997). Toot Hill, Coleman's Farm, 19 territories in CBC plot (ten in 1997).
- Herts Chess Valley, 12 territories. Chorleywood Common, 20 territories. Garston Area, 50 territories in area surveyed. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, nine territories. Rye Meads SF, 22 territories.
- Middx Bushy Park, 30 territories in survey area (27 in 1997). Middlesex Filter Beds, seven pairs bred (same as in 1997). Queens Wood, Highgate, c20 territories. Tower Hamlets Cemetery, 11 in September. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, bred in 1998, (five pairs present in 1997). Embankment Gardens, two in June. Hyde Park, 13 territories in CBC plot (13-14 in 1997). Kensington Gardens, bred. Limehouse, maximum of eight in September. Primrose Hill, bred, seven on Oct 7th. Regent's Canal, between St John's Wood and Victoria Park, 14 territories in the breeding season, 15 on Oct 7th at St John's Wood. Regent's Park, 12 territories. St James Park, six territories in CBC plot (five in 1997). Toffee Park, Radnor Street, one in February. Victoria Park, maximum 12 in September.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, ten on Sept 26th.
- Kent Beckenham Place Park, 11+ territories. Catford, River Pool, two territories. Hither Green Cemetery, six territories. Maryon Wilson Park, c15 territories (15-18 in 1997). Ruxley GP, ten on Apr 4th. Sevenoaks Reserve, ten on Feb 28th. Woolwich Common, two territories (five in 1997). Woodlands Farm, Welling, at least ten.
- Surrey Addington Hills, 33 on May 19th. Arbrook Common, 25 territories in CBC plot (36 in 1997). Ashted Common, 33 territories in CBC plot (40 in 1997). Barwell Court, 18 territories in CBC plot (20 in 1997). Lloyd Park, Croydon, maximum count 18 on Apr 7th. Beddington SF, 15 territories (14 in 1997). Long Ditton (Sugden Road), 14 territories in CBC plot (18 in 1997). Nower Wood, 22 territories in CBC plot (18 in 1997). Oxted, two paired and on territory on Dec 31st. Park Farm, Chessington, 29 territories in CBC plot (17 in 1997). *Inner London*: Brunswick Park, one territory. Burgess Park, two singing in May. Kennington, two singing in breeding season. Surrey Docks, four singing in May.

1104 Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers, scarce passage migrant.

The number of singing males reported increased from 31 to 44, although some were almost certainly migrants. The number of breeding pairs was probably not more than 36. In Essex the number increased from the low point of nine to fourteen. In Surrey there were records of 14 singing birds although some of them did not stay to breed. The record of a singing bird at Stave Hill was the first for Inner London since 1985. The first bird of spring was at Wraysbury GP on Apr 12th. There were no records in autumn although one singing at Shortwood Common, Staines on July 10th may have been a wandering unpaired male. All records are given.

- Essex Chingford Plain, one singing from Apr 24th to May 1st (PAB,AAB). Fishers Green, one singing on Apr 27th (WR), four present on Apr 28th (SC), four singing on May 16th reduced to one on June 11th (IK). Hainault Forest, one from Apr 22nd, one pair bred (AAB,MKD,SRP). Harlow, Long Wood Katherines, one singing during the breeding season (RGG). Hornchurch CP, one singing on May 31st (LH *et al*). Roding Valley Meadows, at least one pair present (RGG). Sewardstone, Green Street, one singing from Apr 28th to May 11th (PAB). Sewardstone, four from April 29th to May 5th (AAB, PAB,AC,SC).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on May 16th and 17th (BR). Cheshunt GP, one singing from May 10th to June 17th. Coppice Wood, Tyttenhanger, one singing on Apr 5th (LM). Rye Meads SF, one on Apr 29th and two on May 1st (GJW).
- Middx Brent Res, one on Apr 27th (ASMS). Shortwood Common, Staines, one singing on the very late date of July 10th (CLy). Springwell Lake, one singing on Apr 29th, May 23rd and 24th (JE,AVM). Trent Park, a singing male on May 22nd (BJW).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on Apr 12th (DJM), a second bird by Colne Brook on Apr 25th and two birds on May 9th (RRG).
- Kent Dartford, Brooklands Lakes two singing on May 15th (AJM). Dartford Marsh one singing on Apr 22nd (BEW). Horton Kirby one singing on May 5th (AJM).
- Surrey Ashtead Common, no territories in CBC plots, (two in 1997), (ED,JHh). Bookham Common, first heard on Apr 17th (IS), rising to ten singing on Apr 29th but reducing to seven territories during the breeding season, (eight in 1997), (APe). Holmethorpe SP, one singing from May 10th to 24th (SWG). Leatherhead, Oaklawn Road, one on June 16th and 22nd (ASs). Limpsfield Chart, one singing on May 9th (PJO). Norbury Park, one on Apr 25th (ML). *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one singing at Stave Hill Ecological Park on Apr 20th (RK) and May 5th (TSt).

1121 Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros

Status: breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

The number of territories recorded during the breeding season was at a high point. This is credit to several observers who have worked exceptionally hard in difficult areas to find singing birds in some of the

least ornithologically promising districts in the LNHS Area. It is interesting to note that in 1950 there were 13 pairs in the City of London; these had 24 broods and raised 69 young to fledging. The high level of knowledge of the progress of these pairs reflects the changes in nesting habitats, from bomb sites to power stations, large buildings and industrial complexes.

Breeding records are tabulated below and all records of wintering and passage birds are listed under county headings.

		<i>Pairs Proved Breeding</i>	<i>Other Pairs Present</i>	<i>Additional Singing Males</i>
Essex	Blackwall			1
	Canning Town		1	
	Creekmouth		1	
	King George V Res			1
	Purfleet	1		
	Silvertown		6	
	Walthamstow Res			1
Middx	Brimmsdown		1	
	Inner London			
	Caledonia St, N1	1		
	Charterhouse Square			1
	Farringdon	1		
	Kings Cross	1		
	St John's Gardens SW1			1
Kent	Whitehall Place, SW1			1
	Charlton, Gravel Works	1	1	
	Deptford	1	1	1
	Erith Reach	2		1
	Greenwich	2		
	Littlebrook PS			1
	Woolwich			1
Surrey	Inner London			
	Bermondsey		1	
	Surrey Docks			1
	Tower Bridge		1	



- Essex Banbury Res, a male on Jan 31st and Feb 1st, a first-summer male singing on Mar 1st. Barking Bay/Marsh, a female on May 10th. Chingford Plain, a male on Feb 27th. Dagenham Chase, one on Dec 1st. Hornchurch CP, one on Oct 3rd. King George V Res, singles on Oct 23rd, 28th, Nov 10th and 23rd, four on 15th, three on 18th and two on 20th.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, a male on Apr 23rd, a female on 24th and 25th, one on Nov 14th. Stocker's Lake, a female on Apr 13th.
- Middx East India Dock Basin, a male on Jan 20th. King George VI Res, singles on Jan 24th and Mar 14th. Staines Res, singles on Jan 25th, Feb 1st and 15th. Tottenham Marsh, one on Feb 6th and 12th. West India Dock Basin, three on Oct 23rd.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Nov 24th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on June 13th. Stone Marsh, one on Oct 11th. Charlton, two on Jan 3rd and 10th; one on 11th and 12th; four, including two singing males on Oct 10th; two on Oct 8th, 13th and 15th; one on 30th; one on Dec 27th.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, one from Nov 10th to 15th. Beddington SF, a first-winter male on Nov 17th and a female on 22nd. Shirley, one on Sept 30th. Redhill (town), one in early December. Reigate Hill, one on May 26th. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one singing on Apr 24th and one on Dec 5th.

1997 Additional Record

- Middx Pinner Park Farm, one on Oct 3rd and 4th.

1122 Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Status: uncommon passage migrant and very rare breeder.

The first bird of spring was at Hornchurch CP on Apr 8th. There were records of 17 bird days in spring. Autumn passage commenced with a bird at Morden Hall Park on the exceptionally early date of July 8th; there were no more records until one at Dagenham Chase on Aug 15th. There were approximately 59 bird/days in autumn, a 40% increase compared with 1997. Most records were between Aug 22nd and Sept 29th. There were 13 bird/days in October involving eight birds, the last being at Hornchurch CP on the 30th, an exceptionally late date. All records are given below.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one on Sept 25th. Beckton, one on Aug 16th. Chingford Plain, singles on Sept 13th and 15th. Cornmill Meads, one on Sept 13th. Dagenham Chase, one Aug 15th. Dagnam Park, singles on Apr 13th and Sept 25th. Hainault Forest, one on Sept 19th. Harlow, two on Sept 2nd. Hornchurch CP, singles on Apr 8th and Oct 30th. Hornchurch, one in a garden on Oct 10th.
- Herts Essendon, one on Aug 28th. London Colney, one on Apr 16th. Rye Meads, one on May 3rd Tyttenhanger, two on Apr 19th and one on Apr 30th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, singles on Apr 21st, Sept 12th and 29th. Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Apr 25th. Brent Res, singles on Apr 26th, Aug 30th and Sept

24th. Chiswick, a male in a garden on Sept 3rd. Fernyhill Farm, one on Sept 23rd. Gutteridge Wood, three on Sept 20th. Hampstead Heath, singles on May 14th, Aug 22nd and 25th. Parkside Farm, one on Sept 23rd. Pinner Park Farm, two on Sept 13th. Trent Park, one on Sept 21st. Twickenham, one in a garden on Sept 28th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one on Aug 27th, two on 29th and 30th with singles on 31st, Sept 1st, 2nd, 21st and Oct 5th to 10th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, singles on Apr 21st, 25th and Sept 22nd (ARD,DJ).

Bucks Wraybury GP, one trapped and ringed on Apr 25th.

Kent Greenwich Park, one on Sept 24th.

Surrey Beddington SF, singles on May 1st and Aug 30th. Chelsham, one on Sept 27th and two on Oct 7th. Headley Heath, one on Oct 15th. Horton CP, one on Sept 1st. Lonsdale Road Res, one on Aug 29th. Morden Hall Park, singles on Apr 25th, July 8th and Aug 29th. Richmond Park one on Apr 26th.

1997 Additional record

Middx Pinner Park Farm, singles on Apr 14th, Sept 20th and 27th.

1137 Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

Status: regular passage migrant but now almost extinct as a breeding summer visitor.

A pair summered at Rainham Marsh maintaining the toehold as a London breeding species. The first birds of spring occurred on Apr 13th at Beddington SF. There were no records of more than five birds at a site, and numbers were below average with approximately 79 bird/days reported at 28 sites, 15% lower than the average for the previous ten years. Most records were of ones or twos with five at Richmond Park on Apr 22nd the highest count. Most records were in the period Apr 22nd to May 8th. The last birds of spring, other than the summering birds at Rainham, were singles at North Downs, Oxted and Pinner Park Farm on May 12th.

In the autumn, passage started on the early date of July 5th, with one at Barking Bay/Marsh with this or another at the same site on July 17th. There were a further six birds reported from five sites in July but only nine more birds from five sites in the first two weeks of August. Passage then started in earnest and there were records of approximately 109 bird/days from 21 sites between Aug 15th and 28th. From Aug 29th to Sept 11th there were records of approximately 185 bird/days from 29 sites. Birds were recorded in smaller numbers in the two weeks to Sept 25th with 120 bird/days from 27 sites. Passage continued well in to October with a further 58 bird/days up to Oct 13th. The last bird of October was one at Barn Elms on 18th. The maximum count was 11 at Barking Bay/Marsh on Sept 19th. This was the only double figure count of the autumn. There were approximately 498 bird/days reported from 47 sites. The number of autumn records was 9% lower than the ten-year average. The

Whinchat remains far more common in autumn, the seasonal ratio being 6.3:1.

An extremely unusual record of a male at Staines Res on Nov 29th, Dec 12th, 13th and 20th was not unprecedented, there have been two previous winter records in the LNHS Area: one on Jan 9th 1983 at Waltham Abbey and one on Dec 26th 1934 at Elmers End SF (now South Norwood CP). Records from Inner London, which unusually were all in spring, are given below:

Middx *Inner London*: Regent's Park, singles on Apr 23rd and Sept 1st (ARD,DJ).
Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one on May 8th (RK).

1139 Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

Status: localised breeding resident, regular passage migrant and winter visitor

The number of pairs recorded in the breeding season was 22 at eight sites, with birds at a further three sites in the breeding season. This is the highest number of breeding pairs since 1990. The number of pairs in Essex, along the River Thames, increased to 15 with a further three pairs on the South side of the River. The pressure on the habitats along the River Thames remains, although several of the sites are now gaining more recognition of their conservation value. There were at least four pairs in Surrey, a welcome return after last year. Unusually there was a summer record in Inner London. Records were received from a total of 42 sites. Breeding, passage migrants and winter records are summarised below.

Essex Banbury Res, singles on Oct 4th and Nov 2nd. Barking Bay/Marsh, one pair bred, 11 in September, five in October, two in November and December. Chingford Plain, one on Sept 13th, two on Oct 9th and one on 12th. Dagenham Chase, one from Jan 1st to 13th, singles on Sept 16th and Oct 18th, two on 29th and from Nov 15th to the year's end. Essex Filter Beds, one on Sept 25th. Fairlop Plain, two on Oct 3rd and 4th. Fishers Green, one on Jan 11th. Hornchurch CP, one pair bred. Rainham Marsh, 13 pairs, 12 in the first part of 1998 and up to 14 in the second half of the year. Royal Docks, one on Sept 5th. Walthamstow Marsh, two on Jan 25th and Dec 29th. Walthamstow Res, singles on Feb 20th and Mar 7th.

Herts Rye Meads SF, one on Nov 7th. Smug Oak Lane, two on Oct 12th.
Middx Alexandra Park, one on Mar 8th. Brent Res, two on Oct 9th. Bury Farm, Edgware, one in December. Bushy Park, two in January and February, up to four in September and October, eight in November and five in December. Hampstead Heath, one on Oct 3rd, five on 9th, two on 10th, one on 11th, three on 19th, then singles on Nov 5th and 6th. Hounslow Heath, singles intermittently from Jan 7th to Feb 6th and Mar 4th, three

on 7th, two on Oct 7th and one on Nov 30th. Lake Farm, two on Sept 9th and one on 27th. Parkside Farm, one on Apr 22nd. Perry Oaks SF, singles on Jan 10th and 24th, Oct 18th and Nov 21st. Tottenham Marsh, one or two in January and February with one on Mar 1st, up to three in October with one from November to December, but with three on Nov 4th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, singles on Sept 17th, Oct 6th and 7th and from Nov 2nd to 5th. Wormwood Scrubs, singles on Sept 29th and Oct 8th, three on 9th, singles on 13th and Nov 3rd to 5th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one, a juvenile, on June 16th (ARD,DJ). This is an intriguing record, obviously raising the possibility that a pair bred nearby.

Kent Crossness, two on Dec 30th. Dartford Marsh, one pair, but the nest site could have been across the River Darent on Crayford Marsh; two in January, February and March, three in August, two in October and three in November. Erith Marsh, two pairs present in the breeding season; one on Oct 12th, six on Nov 29th and two on Dec 30th. Joyce Green Hospital Farm, two on Jan 28th. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Jan 11th and two on 24th. Thamesmead, two on Nov 7th. Woolwich Common, three on Nov 7th.

Surrey Barn Elms, up to two in January and February, maxima of seven in October, three in November and four in December. Beddington SF, four in the first winter-period, two from Oct 3rd to year's end. Chelsham, Nore Hill, one on Oct 27th. Dungeon Hill, Woodmansterne, two on Sept 26th. Headley Heath, one pair bred, two throughout January and one on Nov 4th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Jan 5th. Molesey Heath, singles on Jan 26th and Oct 9th. Richmond Park, two pairs bred, monthly maxima: three in January, seven in February, three in March, seven in September, twelve in October, ten in November and six in December. South Norwood CP, one in January and present up to Feb 18th, a pair was present in May, one on Oct 19th, two from Oct 20th to 31st and one during November and December. Trevereux, one on Aug 23rd and two on Sept 6th and 13th. Walton Heath, one pair bred.

1997 Additional record

Middx Pinner Park Farm, singles on Sept 7th and Oct 3rd.

1146 Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

The first bird of spring was one on Mar 4th at Hounslow Heath, the third earliest of the decade. There were only eight more bird/days in the next two weeks. There were a total of 175 bird/days in the week Mar 23rd to 29th. The following three weeks all remained quiet with only 41 bird/days, 39 bird/days and 20 bird/days in the weeks ending Apr 5th, 12th and 19th respectively. The next week showed a dramatic arrival with most birds on Apr 22nd and 23rd; in total there were 566 bird/days in the week ending Apr 26th. Movement slowed to 85 bird/days in the week ending May 3rd and 117 the following week. After this there were only nine more

spring records, the last being at Pinner Park Farm on May 27th. The spring total of approximately 1061 reported bird/days at 72 sites was 36% higher than 1997 and 54% higher than the average for the decade. The highest numbers reported were 59 at Nore Hill, Chelsham and 46 at Richmond Park on Apr 22nd, a day when outstanding numbers were reported from the region. A record of two recently fledged juveniles at Perry Oaks SF on July 11th may have indicated nearby breeding, possibly in the area of Heathrow Airport.

Autumn migration commenced on July 31st with one at Wm Girling Res. Migration continued with only 57 bird/days to Aug 16th. There was an increase in the week ending Aug 23rd when there were 69 bird/days, the following three weeks recording 58, 38 and 28 bird/days respectively. Numbers then reduced although there was an increase at the beginning of October with 49 bird/days during week ending Oct 4th. A trickle continued throughout October and there were two sites with birds in November the last being one at Banbury Res on Nov 4th. There were records from 54 sites in autumn with at least 370 bird/days being recorded, the highest in the decade. The maximum number at one site was six at Pinner Park Farm on Aug 25th. Inner London records are given below.

- Middx *Inner London*: Hyde Park, four on Mar 28th (RFS). Kensington Gardens, one on Sept 21st (KCO). Regent's Park, three on Mar 28th, singles on Apr 4th and 22nd, five on 23rd, two on May 8th and one on Aug 31st (ARD,DJ).
- Surrey *Inner London*: Chamber Wharf, SE16, two on Apr 18th (DGe). Surrey Docks, eight on Apr 22nd, three on 23rd, five on May 8th and one on 11th (RK).

There were records of two birds showing the characteristics of the Greenland race *O. o. leucorrhoea*.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one on May 15th (KB)
- Surrey Walton Heath, one on May 2nd and 3rd (APE)

1186 Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*
 Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

There were records of about 55 birds at 28 sites, the highest number recorded in any year. Unusually these were split almost equally between spring and autumn. The migration was extremely compact with major arrivals over short periods in both spring and autumn. The first bird of spring was a male at Beddington SF on Apr 4th. After the next on Apr 19th, a major movement occurred between Apr 22nd and Apr 27th when all the remaining spring records arrived. Three sites had multiple records with seven birds recorded at King George VI Res, six at Dartford Marsh and four at Dulwich and in total 15 sites were involved. In the autumn there were 26 records from 16 sites. An early record of a single at Dartford

Marsh on Sept 12th, preceded all the other arrivals in October with 21 between Oct 3rd and Oct 8th, the last were singles at Cornmill Meads and Hainault Forest on Oct 18th. There was a multiple arrival at Nore Hill, Chelsham with five on Oct 7th. All records are given below.

- Essex Barking Marsh, two on Oct 3rd (AJD) and a female on Oct 7th (SC). Chingford Plain, two, on Oct 7th (RC). Cornmill Meads, a male on Oct 18th (ELBF). Dagenham Chase, two on Oct 6th (KB). Hainault Forest, one on Oct 18th (MKD). Hornchurch CP, one Apr 19th and 20th (LH,DMn,JSh). Rainham Marsh, singles on Oct 10th, 15th and 17th (MKD,SRP).
- Herts Bowmansgreen Farm, single females on Apr 23rd and from Apr 27th to May 3rd which was also seen at Tyttenhanger GP (LM *et al*).
- Middx Brent Res, a male on Oct 3rd (ASMS). Hampstead Heath, a female on Apr 24th, a male on Oct 4th and three on Oct 5th (PWD,WEO). King George VI Res, a male on Apr 21st (FRC) and five including four males from Apr 22nd to Apr 24th, seven on Apr 25th and Apr 26th, including six males, reducing to two males on Apr 28th (AVM,DJM,PN *et al*). Pinner Park Farm, a female on Apr 23rd (PPBR). Tottenham Cemetery, a male on Apr 21st (PL). Vicarage Farm, Enfield, a male on Apr 21st (RMC,BJW,RJW). *Inner London*: Regent's Park, a female flew NW at 07:30 on Oct 7th (ARD,DJ).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Oct 17th (CDRH).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, River Darent Barrier, a male from Apr 21st to Apr 24th (GB *et al*) and one on Sept 12th (DW). Dartford Marsh, up to five on Apr 22nd (BF *per* AJM), two on Apr 23rd (BEW). Joyce Green Hospital, one on Apr 28th (BEW).
- Surrey Beddington SF, a male on Apr 2nd and a first-winter female, on Oct 6th (BBR). Chelsham, High Breach, a female from Apr 22nd to Apr 28th (BJT). Chelsham, Nore Hill, two males and three females on Oct 7th, three on Oct 8th (BJT,BH). Dulwich Woods, four circled and flew south on Apr 22nd were also seen at Dulwich Golf Course (PB). Richmond Park, Conduit Wood, a male on Apr 22nd (MBe). South Norwood CP, two on Oct 7th (JBD). Tolworth Court Farm, a male on Oct 5th (MGn). Wimbledon Common, one on Oct 4th (DWs). *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, a female at Stave Hill Ecological Park on Apr 22nd (RK).

1997 Additional record

- Middx Pinner Park Farm, one on Sept 24th and 25th (JRi)

1187 Blackbird

Turdus merula

Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The Blackbird is a successful city dweller and this year the CBC and other surveys indicate that the fall in numbers noted over the past few years has halted and even reversed a little. Large counts and breeding surveys are given.

- Essex Essex Filter Beds, 13 pairs (two in 1997) and 22 pairs bred along the River Lee (14 in 1997). Hainault Forest, 50-60 pairs, "some decline". More's Wood, ten pairs (eight in 1997). North Woolwich, an influx noted on Nov 8th. Pole Hill, 40 on Oct 6th. Rainham Marsh, ten pairs bred (seven in 1997). Toot Hill, Coleman's Farm, 16 territories in CBC plot (13 in 1997). Walthamstow Res, 25+ on Nov 21st.
- Herts Amwell GP, 25 on Oct 3rd. Chess Valley, five singing. Chorleywood Common, seven singing. Garston, 70 territories in survey area, c20 in observer's garden on Sept 25th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, five singing males on June 15th. Rye Meads SF, 20 territories.
- Middx Bushy Park, 16 pairs bred in survey area. Middlesex Filter Beds, five pairs bred. Queens Wood, Highgate, 40-50 singing males in breeding season. *Inner London*: Hyde Park, 19 territories in CBC plot (17-21 in 1997). Kensington Gardens, bred, up to 14 adults March to May. Kings Square, maximum 29 in February. Limehouse, peak of 57 in April. Primrose Hill, maximum count 34 on July 9th. Regent's Canal, 25 between St John's Wood and Victoria Park on June 17th, some evidence of migrants in October. Russell Square, six pairs. St James's Park, ten territories (eight in 1997). Victoria Park, peak of 49 in May.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, maximum of ten on Sept 9th.
- Kent Beckenham Place Park, 30, including 14 singing males on May 10th. Deptford Creek, six territories. Hither Green Cemetery, at least five territories. Hoblingwell Wood, a small influx of 33 on November 23rd. Maryon Wilson Park, about ten territories.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, 12 territories in CBC plot (11 in 1997). Ashtead Common, 21 territories in CBC plot (17 in 1997). Barwell Court Farm, 19 territories in CBC plot (15 in 1997). Beddington SF, 33 territories (28 in 1997). Limpsfield Chart, 20 with four Redwings on Oct 1st appeared to be migrants. Lloyd Park, Croydon, 34 on Jan 16th. Long Ditton (Sugden Road), 12 territories in CBC plot (14 in 1997). Nower Wood, 14 territories in CBC plot (eight in 1997). Park Farm, Chessington, 16 territories in CBC plot (11 in 1997). *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, 18 on Oct 5th.

1198 Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

During January and February the weather remained exceptionally mild, and although March was more unsettled there were no major influxes of thrushes into the London Area during the first part of the year. The largest counts in January were 400 at Lower Feltham on the 22nd, 300 at Tervereux on the 11th and 300 at Smallford on the 31st; smaller numbers were scattered widely over the region. February had record high temperatures and consequently counts were comparatively low. The highest February counts were 300 at Lower Feltham on the 13th, 300 at Stanwell Moor on the 14th, 300 at Stapleford Tawney on the 20th, and 300 at Woodlands Park on the 27th. Numbers fell in March, the count of 200 at Rushett Farm being the largest of the month. In April very few

birds lingered past the 3rd when there were 14 at Hall Marsh. The last bird was recorded at Beddington SF on Apr 28th.

The first record of autumn was one on Sept 28th at Nore Hill, Chelsham; there were few further records until the middle of October when a small movement was noted. Some movements were noted at the beginning of the month, the most notable being around 1,500 W over Beddington on the 1st. A strong westerly movement was noted at several sites on the 5th and 7th, with 700 at Hampstead Heath being the highest recorded. In general, numbers to the end of the year were not particularly high with no site recording more than 700 after the movement on Nov 7th. Significant counts and Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 150 on Dec 26th. Berwick Ponds, 150 on Feb 22nd. Hainault Forest, 200 on Jan 17th. Havering CP, 200 on Feb 20th. King George V Res, 200 on Feb 28th. Stapleford Tawney, 200 on Jan 23rd and 300 on Feb 20th. Wm Girling Res, 268 flew SW on Nov 2nd.
- Herts Aldenham, Patchetts Green, 260 on Feb 15th and 300 on Nov 16th. Radlett, 150 on Feb 22nd. Smallford, 300 on Jan 31st.
- Middx Brent Res, 603 flew NW on Nov 5th. Broadwater, 200 on Feb 21st. Hampstead Heath, 700 flew W on Nov 5th, 500 flew W on Nov 7th, 200 on Nov 12th, 300 flew W on Nov 17th. Lower Feltham, 400 on Jan 22nd and 300 on Feb 13th. Staines Moor, 250 on Jan 12th. Stanwell Moor, 300 on Feb 14th. Vicarage Farm, 200 on Dec 12th. *Inner London*: Hyde Park, four on Mar 3rd. Liverpool St Station, one on Mar 14th on the station concourse. Paddington Green, one flew W on Nov 5th. Regent's Park, singles on Feb 4th and Mar 17th, two on 29th, four on Apr 1st, 17 on Nov 1st, 72 on 2nd, ten on 4th, 200 on 5th, 38 on 7th, 23 on 10th, 45 on 12th, seven on 23rd, one on 24th, four on 26th, two on 28th, 12 on 30th, two on Dec 6th, 21 on 7th and five on 10th. Westbourne Green, 15 flew NW on Nov 5th.
- Bucks Langley Park, 155 on Feb 25th, 500 on Dec 1st. Woodlands Park, 300 on Feb 27th.
- Kent Greenwich Park, 600 flew over W on Nov 5th and 330 flew over W on Nov 7th. Sevenoaks Reserve, 230 on Dec 13th. Swanscombe Marsh, 200 on Dec 13th.
- Surrey Banstead, 150 flew SW on Nov 5th. Barn Elms, 188 flew over on Nov 1st. Beddington SF, c1,500 flew W on Nov 1st. Chelsham, Beddlestead, 250 on Feb 23rd. Epsom Common, 300 roosted on Dec 12th. Morden Hall Park, 300 flew NW on Nov 5th. Rushett Farm, 250 on Jan 10th, 200 on 27th, 200 on Feb 20th, 200 on Mar 10th, 200 on Dec 20th and 27th. Trevereux/ Swaynesland, 300 on Jan 11th and 150 on Feb 22nd. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, 49 flew W on Nov 6th.

1200 Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos

Status: common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Like the Blackbird, the Song Thrush has declined in the 1990s, however there were some areas where a slight recovery was noted but others

where the decline continued. A small influx, along with other winter thrushes was noted in October.

- Essex Barking Marsh, 20 on Oct 7th, an influx reported in October and November. Collier Road, five or six pairs bred. Essex Filter Beds, two pairs bred, and two pairs along the adjacent River Lea. Hainault Forest, 28-30 breeding pairs (similar to 1997). More's Wood, five pairs bred (three in 1997). Pole Hill, eight flew S on Oct 5th. Rainham Marsh, five pairs bred (two in 1997). South Ockenden, 30 on Oct 26th. Toot Hill, one pair at Colemans Farm CBC (two in 1997).
- Herts Aldenham Res, one territory (three in 1997). Brickett Wood area, at least 16 territories (14 in 1997). Chess Valley (four territories). Garston Area, 18 territories (12 in 1997). Otterspool three territories, (two in 1997). Rye Meads SF, six territories. SW Herts "small influxes noted on Oct 6th and 10th, and Nov 3rd and 6th".
- Middx Alexandra Park, nine territories (six in 1997). Bedfont Lakes CP, two territories (four in 1997). Grovelands Park, five territories. Hampstead Heath, 45 on Oct 3rd and 15 on Oct 15th. Middlesex Filter Beds, one pair bred (same as in 1997). North Finchley, up to ten in a garden including one showing the characteristics of the continental nominate race *T. p. philomelos*. Tower Hamlets Cemetery, max three during the year. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace Gardens one breeding pair (one in 1997). Hyde Park, ten territories in CBC plot (5-6 in 1997). Kensington Gardens, one territory in CBC plot (same as 1997). Limehouse, one in April. Primrose Hill, one or two pairs nested, six flew NW on Oct 7th during Redwing passage. Regent's Park, six territories, 12 on Sept 28th, ten on Oct 2nd, 20 on Oct 7th, then smaller numbers during October, presumably some migrants were involved in the late September and October records. St James's Park, three territories in CBC plot (same as 1997). Victoria Park, up to two during April, May and October.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, ten on Oct 26th.
- Kent Bexley Wood, two singing in January and February. Crofton Heath, five singing on Feb 5th. Dartford Heath, two singing on Mar 28th, still very scarce. Greenwich Park, only one territory, (three in 1997). Hall Place Gardens, two territories. Ruxley GP, five on Jan 1st. Sevenoaks Reserve, five on Nov 1st. Thames Barrier, four on Nov 11th were probably migrants. Woodlands Farm, at least six territories. Woolwich Common, two territories (same as 1997).
- Surrey Arbrook Common, two pairs bred in CBC plot (same as 1997). Ashted Common, six territories in CBC plot (same as in 1997). Barwell Court, two pairs bred in CBC plot (three in 1997). Beaulieu Heights Wood, two pairs bred. Cannon Hill Common, New Malden, three territories, (same as in 1997). Chelsham, Nore Hill, six on Oct 7th during a large movement of thrushes. Island Barn Res, ten on Oct 9th. Limpsfield Chart, three singing males in spring, three flew W on Oct 2nd and 44 flew NE on Oct 7th with Redwings. Long Ditton (Sugden Road), one territory in CBC plot (three in 1997). Morden Hall Park, 12 territories (nine in 1997). Nower Wood, five pairs in CBC plot (same as 1997). Park Farm, two pairs bred

in CBC plot (one in 1997). South Norwood CP, five singing males at the end of December. South Norwood Lake, four or five pairs bred. Wimbledon Common, 43 territories (38 in 1997). *Inner London*: Bermondsey, Silwood Estate, one territory. Burgess Park, one territory. Surrey Docks, four territories, single migrants seen in October and November.

1201 Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The first-winter period was mainly mild and consequently there were no major influxes of Redwings into the area. Counts of 100 were made at Chorleywood Common on Jan 11th; Hampton Court Park, on Jan 19th and 21st; Chalfont Park on Jan 30th; and Telegraph Hill, Claygate, on Jan 31st. The highest January count was 200 at Lower Feltham on Jan 22nd. In February, there were: 200 at Hampton Court Park on the 4th; 210 at Weald Park on the 5th; 100 at Hampton Court Park on 6th; 150 at Horton CP on 8th; 200 at Hampton Court Park on 15th; and 100 at Trevereux/ Swaynesland on Feb 22nd. March was unsettled but remained mild, there were 100 at Sevenoaks Reserve on Mar 2nd and 4th, and at least 170 at Aldenham Res on the 15th. Most birds had disappeared by the third week of March although there were still 100 at Richmond Park on the 22nd. Few birds were recorded in April, the only double figure count being 15 at Hampstead Heath on the 8th. A late bird was trapped at Wraysbury GP on May 2nd.

The first arrival in autumn was two at Coppetts Wood on Sept 27th. There were few reports until Oct 5th when at least 300 flew S at Pole Hill and 250 flew NW over Morden Hall Park. Northerly winds brought a noticeable movement on Oct 7th, with records of: 150 at Cheshunt Park; 200 at Chipstead Lake; 325 at Limpsfield Chart; 384 at Nore Hill, Chelsham in 2.5 hours and smaller numbers at several sites. Further movements were noted on Oct 15th to 19th, with counts of: 442 flying W at Island Barn Res in 30 minutes on the 15th, along with 130 at Kenley and 170 at Hampton; 220 at Hampstead Heath on the 16th; and 350 at both Regent's Park and Chipstead Lake on the 19th. November and December were reasonably mild with few small movements. On Nov 5th: 103 flew NW at Brent Res, 120 flew W over Greenwich Park, 100 at Hampstead Heath and 100 flew over Morden Hall Park. On Nov 7th: 170 flew W at Barking Marsh, 320 flew W over Beaulieu Heights Wood, at least 350 at Greenwich Park, 200 at Hampstead Heath and 300 flew W over South Norwood CP. Another 300 flew W over the latter site on Nov 18th. On Nov 29th there were 300 at Epsom Common followed by 200 at Chipstead Lake the following day. There were c100 at Holywell Hill on Dec 1st. On Dec 10th there were 100 at both Dartford Marsh and Epping Forest and 200 at Hampstead Heath. On Dec 12th there were 200 at Hainault Forest and 100 at Wraysbury GP. The next day saw 150 at Swanscombe Marsh. Arbrook Common had 100 on Dec 19th. On Dec 27th there were 200 at

both Weylands Farm in Hersham and Rushett Farm. Finally, on Dec 28th there were 100 at Hersham GP and 300 at Horton CP. Inner London records are given below.

- Middx Hyde Park, nine on Mar 15th. Lincoln's Inn Fields, two on Dec 29th. Primrose Hill, 87 flew mainly NW in one hour on Oct 7th and 17 flew W on Oct 19th. Regent's Canal, at St John's Wood, 10 flew NW on Oct 5th. Regent's Park, two on Jan 8th, one on 25th, singles on Feb 5th and 12th, up to 15 between Mar 4th and 11th and singles on Apr 15th and 17th. Monthly maxima in the last three months of the year were as follow: 350 on Oct 19th, 50 on Nov 7th and 20 on Dec 23rd and 25th.
- Surrey Surrey Docks, 26 flew S on Oct 16th and one on Nov 6th.

1202 Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Status: common breeding resident.

There appears to be little change in the status of this species, although some CBC plots show small increases on last year. There is also some evidence of this species being involved in the movement of other thrushes during early October. Counts of post breeding gatherings, local census counts and Inner London breeding records are given.

- Essex Barking Marsh, 32 on Aug 30th. Beckton, two pairs bred (one in 1997). Brentwood, 27 on July 1st. Epping Forest, 16 during an influx of winter thrushes on Nov 18th. Essex Filter Beds, 22 on Aug 26th. Hainault Forest 13-14 pairs bred (same as in 1997), Havering CP, 3-5 pairs bred. More's Wood, one pair bred. Rainham Marsh, one or two pairs bred (one in 1997).
- Herts Bone Hill, 37 on Aug 22nd. Bricket Wood area, 17 territories (16-18 in 1997). Garston area, seven territories, (9-10 in 1997). Otterspool, three territories (2-3 in 1997).
- Middx Alexandra Park, four territories, two of which were successful, 13 on Sept 15th. Brent Res, 24 on Aug 24th. Bushy Park, 20 on Oct 10th. Grovelands Park, 18 on Aug 17th. Ravenscourt Park, two pairs bred. Tottenham Cemetery, three pairs bred. Trent Park, 24 on July 14th. *Inner London*: Aberdare Gardens, NW6, one singing on Mar 14th. Buckingham Palace Garden and Green Park area, one territory (same as 1997). Hyde Park, nine territories in CBC plot (five or six in 1997). Kensington Gardens, one pair bred; 15 on Sept 21st. Limehouse, one in April and two in December. Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, one on Dec 30th mobbing a Kestrel. Paddington Green, groups of 21 W at 17.15 and nine S at 18.00 on Aug 20th. Primrose Hill, nine on June 30th, 13 on July 8th, 24 on Sept 10th, seven on Oct 7th and 17 on Oct 14th. Regent's Park, several pairs bred, 13 on Sept 21st, 12 on Oct 7th and 30 on Oct 28th. Victoria Park, 29 on Sept 21st.
- Kent Beckenham Place Park, three pairs bred. Chipstead Lake, 16 on Sept 4th. Greenwich Park, 15 in early January, five pairs probably bred, 25-30 on Sept 15th. Hither Green Cemetery, two territories. Sydenham, eight

flew NW on Sept 16th. Woodlands Farm, four territories. Woolwich Common, one territory.

Surrey Arbrook Common, one territory in CBC plot (two in 1997). Barwell Court Farm, five territories in CBC plot (two in 1997). Beddington SF, an increase in September noted. Chelsham, Nore Hill, nine on Oct 10th. Esher, Sandown Racecourse, 11 on July 24th. Lloyd Park, Croydon, 14 on June 16th. Morden Hall Park, 60 on Aug 4th. Nower Wood, one territory in CBC area (none in 1997). Park Farm, four pairs bred in CBC plot (two in 1997). River Hogsmill at Berrylands, 20 on Aug 2nd. South Norwood Lake, 18 in July and August and 15 in September and October. Walton Res, 20 on Sept 4th. *Inner London*: Kennington, one on May 21st. Surrey Docks, one on Apr 27th, two flew SE on Sept 28th and five flew over on Oct 16th.

1997 Correction

Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, record should read one pair probably bred.

1220 Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

Status: scarce migrant, winter visitor and breeding species, subject to periodic colonisation.

Essex Locality withheld, one male singing from June 11th to July 30th.
 Herts Cheshunt GP, one heard at Hooks Marsh on June 14th (PAC).
 Middx Broadwater, one on Aug 27th and Sept 9th (JE). Locality withheld, a singing male from March 21st into June.
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, a female trapped on Apr 18th (RRG).

Five or six birds were recorded, up to four of them singing males. The recent run of mild winters has benefited this species and if the trend continues definite reports of breeding, last confirmed in 1981, will surely follow.

1996 Additional record

Middx Queen Mary GP, one trapped and ringed on Sept 28th (HRG). This bird was originally ringed at Totten (Hampshire) on Aug 16th 1995 and controlled at Wraysbury GP on July 6th 1996.

1236 Grasshopper Warbler

Locustella naevia

Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first bird of the year was at Rainham Marsh on Apr 7th, the earliest date for well over a decade, Rainham Marsh also had four breeding pairs, a site record. During the spring at least 27 reeling males were reported from 19 sites, with reeling birds heard well into July at several localities, so a good percentage could have been actual breeders rather than just

singing migrants. The last bird of the year was at Vicarage Farm on Sept 24th. All records are given.

- Essex Berwick Ponds, one singing on Apr 19th (LH,DMn). Fisher's Green, one singing in late April and again on May 16th (SC,JF). Hornchurch CP, one singing on May 30th and July 18th (LH,DMn). Rainham Marsh, one singing on Apr 7th and four territories located (AHe).
- Herts Amwell GP, one from Apr 22nd to 29th, one singing on May 4th and June 14th (mo). Bowyers GP, one singing on July 24th (PL). Hatfield, one singing on May 18th and 19th (LM). Rye Meads SF, singles on Apr 19th and Sept 3rd (RMRG,GJW). Tyttenhanger GP, one singing on July 4th and 5th (LM).
- Middx Hounslow Heath, one on Apr 16th, then up to three singing to Apr 27th (JH,KLP). Ickenham Marsh, one on Apr 25th and 26th (JE). King George VI Res, one singing on Apr 22nd (FRC). Rammey Marsh, one singing on June 12th (AC). Vicarage Farm, one on Sept 24th (RMC).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, singles on Apr 12th and 25th, up to three singing between May 2nd and 9th (PG,RRG,CL,DJM).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one singing on Apr 18th and 21st (BBR). Bookham Common, two singing on Apr 21st, (WL,APe). Chelsham, one singing on Aug 1st, 2nd, 4th and 7th, at least one pair bred (BJT). Holmethorpe SP, one singing on Apr 19th (SWG). Horton CP, one singing on Apr 21st (NJM). Lonsdale Road Res, one on Apr 19th (DMr). South Norwood CP, one on July 16th (JBd). Titsey, one singing on Botley Hill on Aug 16th (KBd). Warlingham, three singing on July 20th, two on 23rd and one on 24th (BJT).

1970 Additional record

- Surrey Ashtead Common, eight territories.

1243 **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Status: common and widespread migrant and breeding summer visitor.

During the breeding season numbers were reported to be down on last year, especially at Wraysbury GP where nest predation was high. Good news, however, came from Rainham Marsh where 152 territories were located during a special survey in June (MKD,SRP), a staggering 102 pairs up on last year.

The first two birds of the year were at Amwell GP on Mar 31st with the main influx occurring from Apr 10th onwards. The highest autumn count was 17 at Barn Elms WWT on Sept 6th. Most birds had gone by Sept 12th with the last at Hilfield Park Res on Oct 11th. Localities with ten or more breeding pairs or singing males (totals in parentheses) and Inner London records are given.

- Essex Berwick Ponds (30). Rainham Marsh (152). Walthamstow Res (10).
Herts Amwell GP (47). Rye Meads SF (71).

- Middx Broadwater (15). Tottenham Marsh (11). *Inner London*: Regent's Park, singles on Apr 21st and 23rd, and May 9th and 12th (ARD,DJ).
 Bucks Wraysbury GP (12).
 Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, singles on Apr 22nd, 24th, 27th and May 8th (RK).

1250 Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*
 Status: rare summer visitor and passage migrant.

- Essex Locality withheld, a singing male from May 14th to 17th (LH).

The sixth year in succession that this nationally scarce warbler has occurred in the London Area, at the same site in Essex where breeding was suspected last year.

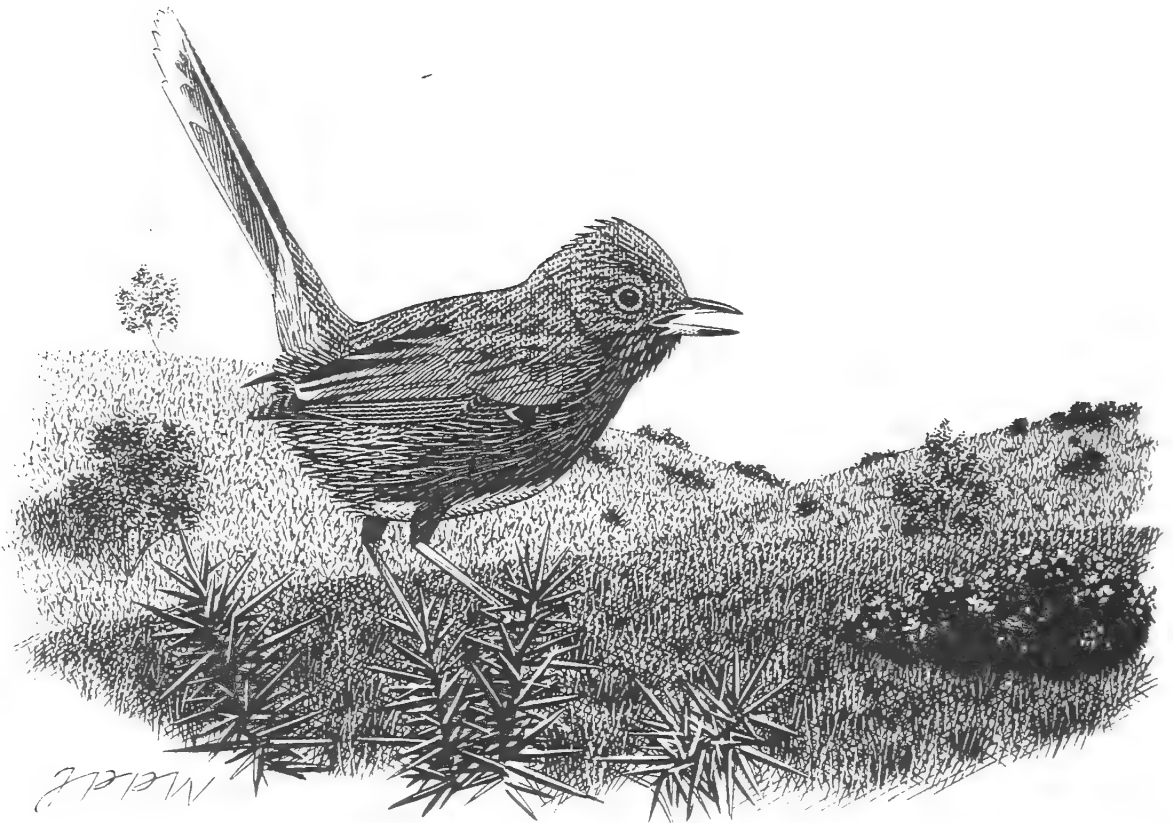
1251 Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
 Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Around 1020 pairs or singing males were located during the breeding season, an astonishing 452 of these at Rainham Marsh where a special survey was undertaken this year (MKD,SRP). The first bird of the year was at Middlesex Filter Beds on Apr 8th, with the main influx occurring from Apr 28th onwards. There were very few autumn records; seven at Barn Elms WWT on Aug 16th was the highest count; the last bird of the year was also at this site on Oct 16th. Localities with ten or more breeding pairs or singing males (totals in parentheses) and Inner London records are given.

- Essex Berwick Ponds/Ingrebourne Valley (100). Essex Filter Beds (21). Rainham Marsh (452). Rainham SW (25). Walthamstow Res (17).
 Herts Amwell GP (48). Cheshunt GP (10+). Hilfield Park Res (20). Rye Meads SF (37).
 Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (41). Brent Res (11). Middlesex Filter Beds (18). Springwell Lake (15). Tottenham Marsh (13). *Inner London*: Regent's Park one on May 24th and one for a week in June.
 Bucks Wraysbury GP (10).
 Kent Erith Marsh/Crossness (17). Littlebrook Lake (15+). Ruxley GP (11).
 Surrey Walton Res (59). *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, four territories in June.

1262 Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*
 Status: rare but annual passage migrant and winter visitor, formerly bred.

A good year with at least six birds recorded from three different sites. Nationally numbers are high with a good population of birds on the Surrey heaths just outside the London Area.



Middx Bushy Park, a female on Jan 31st, Feb 3rd and 4th, a probable female on Oct 18th, a male on Oct 19th, one heard on Oct 20th, a female on Oct 30th, a male and a female on Nov 1st, a female on Nov 7th, one on Nov 12th, a male on Nov 22nd, a female on Nov 26th, one on Dec 9th, two males and a female on Dec 15th and one on Dec 28th (MBe,DH,WK,RJK). Hounslow Heath, one on Jan 9th (JH). Wormwood Scrubs, one from Nov 3rd to Dec 9th (SC,GSE).

1274 Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Spring passage started on Apr 23rd with single birds at four sites. Wraysbury GP had the highest count of the spring with six on May 9th. The breeding population appears to be stable but this species is almost certainly under recorded as males have a habit of falling silent as soon as they have attracted a mate making detection difficult. During the autumn 11 young birds were ringed at Hilfield Park Res and some good counts came from Wraysbury GP with 30+ on Aug 15th, 12 on Aug 22nd and 15+ on Aug 29th. The last bird of the year was at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Oct 11th. All Inner London records are given.

Middx Regent's Park, singles on May 8th, Aug 18th and 29th and Sept 12th with two on Aug 23rd (ARD,DJ).

Surrey Surrey Docks, one on Apr 23rd, two on 30th and one singing on May 5th and 12th (RK).

1275 Common Whitethroat***Sylvia communis***

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Another excellent year with practically every major breeding site reporting an increase in numbers. A special survey was carried out at Rainham Marsh during the breeding season and 142 territories were counted, a new site record (MKD,SRP). A bizarre report came from Paddington Green in Inner London where a male was seen singing from a second floor window box containing nasturtiums on July 3rd.

The first birds of the year were one at Bedfont Lakes CP and two at Essex Filter Beds on Apr 6th with the main influx occurring from Apr 25th onwards. There were no significant autumn counts and most birds had gone by mid-September with the last at Morden Hall Park on Sept 25th, except for one very late record, a single bird at Hornchurch CP on Nov 21st. Localities with ten or more breeding pairs or singing males (totals in parentheses) and all Inner London records are given.

- Essex Bedfords Park (10+). Berwick Ponds (35). Corbets Tey (15+). Cranham Marsh (15). Dagnam Park (15+). Essex Filter Beds/River Lee (19). Hainault Forest (20+). Hornchurch CP (50). Rainham Marsh (142). Toot Hill, Colemans Farm (14).
- Herts Bricket Wood (11-12).
- Middx Brent Res (11). Hounslow Heath (44). Tottenham Marsh (16). *Inner London*: Limehouse, one in May (DWH). Little Venice, a singing male on May 28th (DM). Paddington Green, singing males on June 2nd and July 3rd (DM). Regent's Park, singles on Apr 27th, May 13th and 17th, Aug 13th and Sept 12th with two on Aug 25th (ARD,DJ).
- Kent Foots Cray Meadows (10). Ruxley GP (10). *Inner London*: Sterling Gardens, Deptford, a singing male on June 11th (SG).
- Surrey Bookham Common (35). Elmbridge Leisure Centre (11). Moseley Heath/GP (21). South Norwood CP (14). *Inner London*: Bermondsey, Silwood Estate, one territory (RK). Burgess Park, one territory (RK). Millwall, a singing male on May 21st (DD). South Bermondsey BR Station, two territories (DGe). Surrey Docks, one on Apr 22nd and 27th, two on Apr 23rd and 24th and one territory in June (RK).

1276 Garden Warbler***Sylvia borin***

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first of the year was at Wimbledon Common on Apr 11th with the main influx occurring from May 2nd onwards. There were no significant autumn counts and most birds had gone by the beginning of September with the last bird of the autumn at Greenwich Park on Sept 23rd, apart from an exceptionally late bird at Dagenham Chase on Nov 2nd.

One observer in SW Herts reported a significant increase and comments from others indicate that the breeding population is stable. Localities with ten or more breeding pairs or singing males (totals in parentheses) and all Inner London records are given.

- Essex Hainault Forest (14).
 Herts Rye Meads SF (14).
 Middx Broadwater (11). *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one on May 19th, two on July 26th and singles on Aug 8th, 17th and 25th (ARD,DJ).
 Surrey Bookham Common (21).

1997 Correction

- Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, singles on May 9th and 10th (not May 5th and 6th as stated in *LBR* 62:147).

1277 **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant; increasingly common and widespread in winter.

The increased numbers of wintering birds tends to obscure the first new arrivals, but the first influx of singing birds appeared as usual in the last week of March. The breeding population has continued to expand during this decade and in many areas it is now the commonest woodland warbler. This is reflected in counts from well-monitored sites as follows (1997 figures in parentheses):

- Essex Bedford Park, 20 pairs. Belhus Woods CP, 15-20 pairs (20-22). Berwick Ponds 8-10 pairs. Dagnam Park area, 25 pairs, with 12 in Duck Wood. Fishers Green, ten singing males. Hainault Forest, 80+ pairs (60+). Havering CP, 30 pairs (20). Hornchurch CP 15 pairs - "an increase". Mores Wood, 12 pairs (10). Ongar Park Wood, 16 pairs. Toot Hill, seven pairs (4). Wanstead Park, eight pairs.
 Herts Brickett Wood area, 40 territories, (37). Garston area, 17 territories, (23). Hilfield Park Res, 10+ singing males, Rye Meads SF, 27 singing males.
 Kent Foots Cray Woods, 16 singing males (13). Ruxley GP, 7-8 singing males. Sevenoaks Reserve ten pairs.
 Middx Alexandra Park, 26 singing males - 17 territories established in June (18). Brent Res, 29 singing males (22). Bushy Park, 11-13 nests reported. Tottenham Marsh, six singing males (3).
 Surrey Arbrook Common, 11 territories (12). Ashted Common, ten pairs (6). Barwell Court CBC, five territories (an increase from only one in 1978). Bookham Common, 27 pairs in the plains area (12). West End Common, nine singing males.

As well as a marked increase in the breeding population it has also expanded its range into more marginal scrubland sites and is now well established in Inner London. It is now found breeding right along Thames-side in Essex and Kent in areas where it was scarce to absent ten years

ago. At Rainham Marsh seven pairs bred, an increase on the 2-3 pairs in 1991 to 1997, while five pairs bred as far upriver as Beckton (two in 1997). It is also expanding right down the Lea Valley, with seven pairs at Essex Filter Beds, 15 pairs along the lower River Lea (stable population) and four each at Middlesex Filter Beds and Walthamstow Res. A single pair also bred in a suburban garden in Collier Row, while other singing birds summered in gardens in Romford.

The population during the first-winter period was slightly below average with about 35 individuals during January with slightly fewer by February. At the end of the year few were reported in November and were still well below average with only about 20 wintering. Usually 1-2 birds were seen, often at bird tables in gardens in suburban or built up areas. A tabular summary of winter records together with Inner London records are given below

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Inner London	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	Total
Jan	0	2	6	1	0	0	26	35
Feb	0	4	2	2	0	1	23	32
Nov	2	0	4	0	0	1	7	14
Dec	1	0	4	1	0	1	13	20

Inner London: As noted last year much more in evidence during the breeding season with up to 50 singing males and several breeding pairs present. This is a marked increase on the 12 singing males in three localities in 1988. A summary of Inner London records is given below.

- Middx** Aberdare Gardens, NW6, one singing male. Buckingham Palace, one singing male. Embankment Gardens, one singing male. Greville Place, NW6, one singing male. Holland Park, five breeding pairs (four in 97). Hyde Park, two territories in CBC plot, with an additional 4-5 singing males/pairs elsewhere in the park. Kensington Gardens, 2-3 singing males, one at least paired. Primrose Hill, one singing male. Regent's Canal, two singing males, at least one pair bred. Regent's Park, up to 12 singing males, at least eight territories established by June. St James's Park, one in song. Steeles Road, NW3, one singing male. Victoria Park, at least one singing male.
- Surrey** Battersea Park, up to three singing males. Brunswick Park, two singing males. Burgess Park, one territory. Nunhead Station, SE15, one singing male. Southwark Park, one territory. Surrey Docks, up to nine singing males, three territories established two pairs bred.

1308 Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Status: scarce passage migrant and irregular breeding summer visitor.

The run of poor springs continued with only five singing males reported, with just one giving any indication of establishing a breeding territory. Autumn passage was also rather thin with 15 bird/days at five localities

in August and three single birds in September (compared with at least 26 bird/days at eight localities in August and six bird/days at five localities in September 1997).

The first bird of the year was at Bedfont Lakes CP on Apr 23rd and the last bird was at Rainham Marsh on Sept 19th. All records are given below.

- Essex Chingford, Warren Pond, one in a tit flock on Sept 2nd, Epping Forest, one singing male in the Loughton area of the forest on May 6th. Hainault Forest, a singing male on May 30th not heard subsequently, singles on Aug 7th, 9th, 10th, and 28th. Havering CP, one on Aug 18th. Rainham Marsh, one on Sept 19th. Weald Park, two on Aug 6th and 8th, one on Sept. 5th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one singing male from Apr. 23rd to 25th. Hampstead Heath, singles on July 28th, Aug 4th and 22nd with two on 25th.
- Surrey Limpsfield Chart, two singing males on May 4th with one until the 13th. Wimbledon Common, one singing male in North View Wood on May 16th.

1311 Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor: increasingly widespread in winter.

Although fluctuations do occur from year to year the general trend during the past decade has been upwards - in marked contrast to the Willow Warbler. Most breeding reports appeared to confirm this as indicated by the following comments and counts of breeding populations

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, eight pairs ("an increase"). Berwick Ponds, four pairs, ("an increase"). Dagnam Park, 20 pairs. Hainault Forest, 33 pairs (a marked increase on 20 in 1997). Havering CP, 10-12 pairs (8-10 in 1997). More's Wood, nine pairs (seven in 1997). Ongar Park Wood, six pairs. In addition one pair bred on the Lower Lea at Essex Filter Beds.
- Herts Bricket Wood area, 20 territories (20-21 in 1997). Garston area, nine territories (5-6 in 1997). Rye Meads SF, 13 singing males. SW Herts, "continues to increase".
- Kent Footh Cray Woods, eight singing in May. Greenwich Park, one singing in May (no breeding at this site since at least 1948).
- Middx Bushy Park, 6-8 nests in survey area. Bred as far down the River Lea as Middlesex Filter Beds.
- Surrey Arbrook Common CBC, ten territories (as in 1997). Ashted Common CBC, ten territories (nine in 1997). Barwell Court Farm CBC, seven territories (three in 1997). Bookham Common, ten pairs on Plains. Kenley Aerodrome, nine singing males (four in 1997). Long Ditton CBC, six territories, (four in 1997). Nower Wood CBC, 12 territories, (eight in 1997). Park Farm CBC, five territories (as in 1997).



ABOVE: *Sabine's Gull at Thamesmead, September 1998 (Mike McDonnell)*

BELOW: *Ring-billed Gull at Greenwich, April 1998 (Mike McDonnell)*

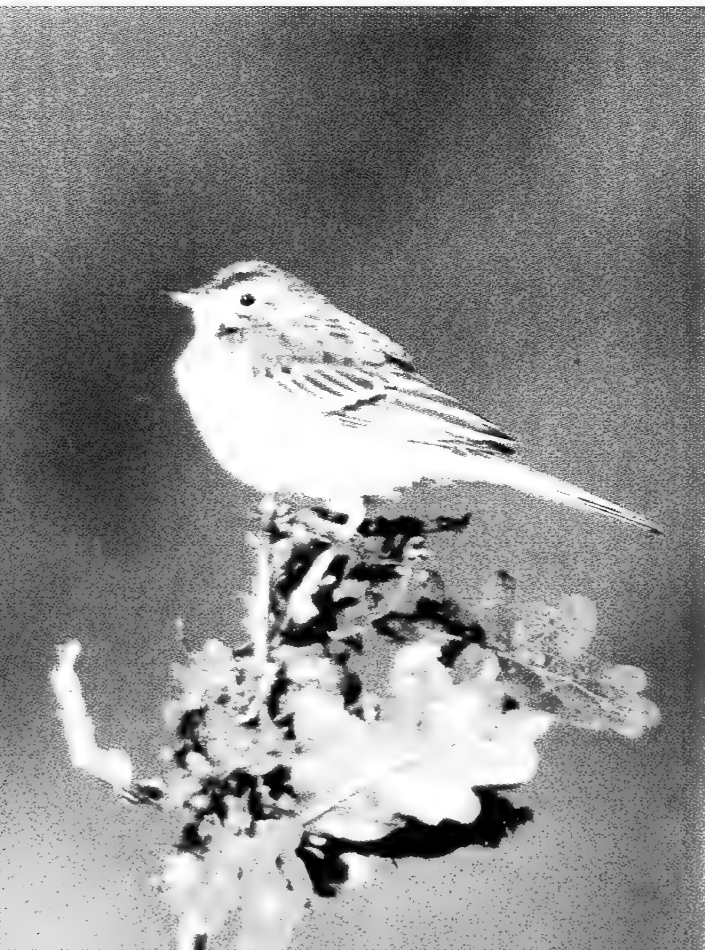




ABOVE: *Short-eared Owl* at Chingford Plain, October 1998 (Andrew Middleton)

BELOW LEFT: *Richard's Pipit* at Chingford Plain, October 1998 (Mike McDonnell)

BELOW RIGHT: *Red-breasted Flycatcher* at Beaulieu Heights Wood, November 1998 (John Flynn)



Breeding also probably occurred at five localities in Inner London this year - the second year in succession that birds have been well represented during the breeding season in the Capital.

With many birds wintering it is difficult to determine the exact arrival of spring birds. However the first new arrivals occurred from about Mar 13th/14th onwards, with the main influx in the last week of the month.

Autumn passage started from mid-August onward but the heaviest movements were not until later in the month and in September. Peak counts included: 25 at Hainault Forest on Aug 28th; 30 at South Norwood CP on Aug 29th; up to 25 at Hainault Forest on Sept 1st and 13th; and 30+ at Regent's Park on Sept 12th. On Sept 19th there were 25 at Hainault Forest and over 100 at Wraysbury GP. Late in September there were still 25+ at Hainault Forest and 50 at Wraysbury GP on the 26th. The last major count - 30 also came from Wraysbury GP on Oct 3rd. Passage birds had largely departed by mid October.

Wintering numbers in January and February were slightly below average, however exceptional numbers were present in the last two months with up to 74 in November and 167 in December. Several localities recorded eight or more and the population in some areas reached double figures. The majority of those present in December were in Essex, Middlesex and Surrey - and were the highest on record in the London Area. The maximum counts were at: Rye Meads, up to eight in January; Fishers Green, 14 on Nov 14th, 15 on Dec 2nd; Hampstead Heath, up to 15 in December; Morden Hall Park, eight in December; Brent Res eight on Dec 7th; and Tilehouse GPs nine on Dec 21st. Most other winter reports were of 1-5 birds. A summary of winter and Inner London records are given below.

	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Herts</i>	<i>Middx</i>	<i>Inner London</i>	<i>Bucks</i>	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Surrey</i>	<i>Total</i>
Jan	4	9	9	2	0	3	8	35
Feb	2	5	14	1	4	0	17	43
Nov	28	6	13	4	7	11	8	75
Dec	39	17	45	11	16	16	23	167

Middx Belsize Square, one on Sept 26th. Charterhouse Square, one singing on Apr 2nd. Downing Street, one on Dec 17th. Greville Place, one on Oct 4th, Holland Park, one pair may have bred. Hyde Park, one territory in CBC plot, - the first since 1989. Kensington Gardens, two singing males present in May/June, possibly on territory. Limehouse singles in April and September. Paddington Green, singles on Aug 16th, Sept 18th, 24th 29th, and Oct 7th. Primrose Hill, single on July 9th up to three from Sept 14th to Oct 12th. Regent's Canal, two on Apr 8th, one on June 30th, up to four in September and up to five in early October. Regent's Park, one in January, one pair bred successfully. Maximum counts in the autumn included 30+ on Sept 12th, 20+ Sept 13th, and 20 on Sept 16th. Singles

on several dates in November and December. St James's Park one territory in the CBC plot - possibly the first ever at this site, up to five in October and one on Nov 26th. Victoria Park, one in October.

Surrey Battersea Park, one on Sept 7th. Redriff Road, SE17, one during January. Surrey Docks, one in February, one territory in June. Maximum autumn counts were ten on Sept 28th, 14 on Oct 5th, and seven in December.

1312 Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The decline that was first noted about ten years ago appears to be continuing in the London Area and many populations are only a fraction of what they were in the late 1980s. As noted last year, a strong spring passage did not translate itself into an improved breeding population, while in some former breeding sites it was only seen on passage. Comments on breeding status - mostly decreases are listed below under county headings.

Essex Berwick Ponds, - "declining". Dagnam Park, "numbers well below those in the 1980s". Hainault Forest and Havering Park, "population 50% down on the mid-1980s". Hornchurch CP, "slight increase". Ongar Park Wood, "65% decline in ten years". Toot Hill CBC, four pairs - six in 1997.

Herts Chess Valley, "second year running with none recorded". SW Herts, "numbers still low".

Bucks Black Park "still well below levels of 1980s".

Kent Ruxley GP, "scarce".

Surrey Arbrook Common "one territory compared with seven in 1976". Ashtead Common, "ten territories compared with 17 in 1970". Epsom Common, "worrying decline". Nower Wood, three territories compared with two in 1997. Wimbledon Common, "strong decline since the early 1980s when over 100 territories located".

The first migrants were five singing at Greenwich Park and three at Hoblingwell Wood on the early date of Mar 21st followed by a general arrival during the last few days of the month and in early April. As in most recent springs there were few large counts with a peak of only 30 at Wraysbury GP at the end of April. The peak in late August and early September included: up to 35 at Hainault Forest on Aug 28th and Sept 1st; 25 in Regent's Park on Aug 25th and 15+ on Sept 2nd; and 15 at Dagenham Chase on Sept 5th. A bird resembling the race *P. t. acredula* was present at Hampstead Heath on Sept 28th. Only three birds were seen in October with the last at Bedfont Lakes CP on the 11th.

Main breeding counts of pairs or singing males (1997 totals in parentheses) and Inner London records are given below

- Essex Bedfords Park, 8-10. Belhus Woods CP, 7-8 (8-10). Berwick Ponds, 7-8 (10+). Dagnam Park, 12-15. Essex Filter Beds, 10 (9). Hainault Forest, 30 (33-35). Havering CP, 8-10 (12). Hornchurch CP, 25+ (20+). Ongar Park Woods, 20+.
- Herts Aldenham Res, 6-7 (5-6). Bricket Wood area, 10 territories (9-10). Rye Meads SF, 15.
- Middx Bentley Priory, 17. Brent Res, 17. Lower Feltham, six. Tottenham Marsh, six (5). *Inner London*: Brunswick Park, one singing Apr 24th. Green Park, one singing Apr 22nd. Holland Park, two singing on Apr 20th with one still in song on May 10th. Hyde Park, one singing on Apr 15th with two on 21st. Kensington Gardens, one singing on Apr 21st. Regent's Park, peak count of ten on Apr 21st and 1-6 during late April/early May; in autumn present on 13 dates from July 20th to Sept 16th with peaks of 25 on Aug 25th, 12+ on Aug 29th and 15+ on Sept 2nd. Victoria Park, singles in April and September.
- Kent No site recorded more than three singing males/pairs.
- Surrey Ashtead Common, ten (16). Bookham Common, 26 pairs on the plains (36). Dulwich, 11. Wimbledon Common, 12 (18). *Inner London*: Battersea Park, one singing male on Apr 20th. Surrey Docks, first on Mar 31st, up to nine in late April, one territory established during June (2).

1314 Goldcrest***Regulus regulus***

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Although there was a slight decline this year - to 150 pairs from 174 in 1997, the breeding population is still well above that in the early 1990s. The largest numbers were found in Herts (60+ pairs), Essex (26+ pairs) and Surrey, although in the latter county the population has fallen from over 50 pairs in 1997 to only 27. For the fourth successive year breeding also occurred in Inner London with at least nine pairs or singing males at five localities.

Winter numbers in January and February were unexceptional, although up to 27 were present at Trent Park on Jan 31st; 30 in the Bricket Wood area during January and February and 25 were in Hainault Forest on Jan 10th. Autumn passage began in mid-September and continued until early November. Although fairly widespread, most large counts came from Essex in particular Hainault Forest. Here peak counts included: 30 on Sept 30th; 45 on Oct 3rd; 60 on Oct 10th; 70 on Oct 18th; 80 on Oct 24th and 29th; and 45 on Nov 7th. Up to 35 wintered at this site while up to 25 were wintering during late November and December at both Epping Forest and Fishers Green. Elsewhere the only other notable counts came from: Beaulieu Heights Wood, 20 in September and October; Berrygrove Wood, 20 on Nov 22nd; Havering CP; 30 on Oct 26th; and Limpsfield Chart, 20 on Oct 25th and Nov 9th.

Breeding season records (number of pairs/singing males in parentheses) and a summary of Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Copped Hall (4). Hainault Forest (1-2). Havering CP (4-5). Mores Wood (1). Ongar Park Wood (5). Romford (1). Weald Park (8-9).
- Herts Aldenham Res (1). Berrygrove Wood, (3). Bricket Wood (12) - 20 in 1997. Bushey Hall (1). Cassiobury Park (5+). Chess Valley (1). Chiswell Green (1). Chorleywood Common (1). Croxley Hall GPs (1). Garston area (16). Hilfield Park Res (3). Holywell Hill (2). Langleybury (2). North Watford Cemetery (1). Otterspool, (2). Park Street GP (2). Patchetts Green (1). Rickmansworth area (3). SW Herts, "healthy numbers and a good breeding season". The Grove (1). Verulamium Lake (1).
- Middx Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (1). Bushy Park (2). Enfield (1). Grovelands Park (1). Ravenscourt Park (1). Sunbury (1). Tottenham Cemetery (2). Trent Park (1). *Inner London*: widely reported during the year from over 15 localities. Breeding territories were located as follows: Holland Park (2), Hyde Park, one in CBC plot (none in 1997), Regents Canal (3), Regent's Park (1), peak count of 15 on Jan 23rd.
- Bucks Black Park (4). Iver Heath (4).
- Kent Bexley Wood (1). Bromley (1). Charlton Cemetery (2). Chislehurst (1). Forest Hill (1-2). Greenwich Park (1). Gumping Common (1). Mayow Park (1). Orpington (1).
- Surrey Arbrook Common (2). Beaulieu Heights Wood (1+). Caterham-on-the-Hill (1). Croydon (1). Esher Common (1). Holmethorpe SP (5). Kenley Aerodrome (1). Moorhouse (1). Morden Hall Park (2). Nower Wood (2). Oxted (1). Oxted, Hurst Green (1). Peckham Rye Park (1). Purley (2). Riddlesdown (1). Sanderstead (3). Wimbledon Common - "dearth of breeding season records - very few singing" (eight in 1997). *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, four on Feb 10th.

1315 Firecrest***Regulus ignicipillus***

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

Breeding season records of singing males came from three localities, all of which were in suitable habitat and stayed well into the breeding season. In addition a further 2-3 singing males were reported in March which may have been more than just passage birds. All the established males were at traditional sites in Essex where breeding has taken place or has been suspected in the past. Wintering birds were present at both ends of the year, but it was more in evidence during October to December, with good numbers again in Maryon Wilson Park and Beaulieu Heights Wood. There was evidence of a small passage in March/April but numbers during the first winter-period were low and reflected the small numbers present at the end of 1997. All records are given but are summarised for the main sites.

- Essex Connaught Water, one on Oct 7th (ELBF). Dagenham Chase, one on Apr 11th (KB). Epping Forest, one on Sept 28th (ELBF). Fishers Green one from Nov 10th into 1999, with two there from Nov 13th to 23rd (WR *et al*). Hainault Forest, singing male from Apr 4th with possibly two males holding territory until early May at least (AAB, MKD, SRP). Havering CP

- singing male in May/June (MKD). Navestockside, one on Dec 7th (CRJ). Ongar Park Wood, singing male on May 25th (AJD). Romford, one on Mar 31st (KB). Warley Place, singing male Mar 14th to 21st (CRJ). Weald Park, singing male on Mar 21st, a single from Nov 23rd to 30th, two from Dec 1st into 1999 (KB,TWB,CRJ). Woodford, one on Oct 7th (KM).
- Herts Rye Meads, one on Nov 7th (RMRG).
- Middx Alexandra Park, singles on Sept 29th (PR) and Nov 13th (APBR). Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Dec 8th and 9th (BCPR). Bushy Park, one on Nov 17th and 18th, two from Nov 20th to Dec 3rd with one until Dec 26th (WD,DH,WK,BT). Grovelands Park, one from Nov 30th to Dec 2nd (RMC,BJW). Hampstead Heath, one in October (JB). Tottenham Cemetery, one on Dec 7th (DL,PL). Whitewebbs Wood, one on Dec 28th (RMC). *Inner London*: Regent's Canal, one on Dec 16th (DM). Regent's Park, female on July 15th (ARD).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one trapped and ringed on Dec 12th (RRG).
- Kent Chislehurst, one on Sept 24th (KHP). Greenwich Park, one on Oct 16th (JT). Maryon Wilson Park, up to two from Nov 6th until the end of the year (DM,JT). Sevenoaks Reserve, two on Jan 12th (JRP,SRP).
- Surrey Beaulieu Heights Wood, two males from Oct 25th to 31st, up to three during November and early December with 1-2 until the end of the month (JFn). Epsom Common, one on Dec 24th (AG). Limpsfield Chart, one on Nov 9th (PJO). Hurst Green, Oxted, one on Mar 6th (KN). Purley, one on Sept 29th (RSPB). Surbiton, one on Dec 3rd (MG). Wimbledon Common, two (male and female) from Feb 15th until Mar 15th, two singing males on Mar 22nd and 24th (DW,MG,SC,NL *et al*); one on Nov 14th (DW).

1335 Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Status: declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The table below summarises the number of pairs reported in each county in 1998 compared with each year from 1989 to 1997. A stabilising of the population was experienced but some observers were still reporting this species as declining or even missing as a breeding bird.

Year	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	IL	Totals
1989	47	17	34	-	11	15	8	132
1990	23	10	20	-	5	7	3	68
1991	37	7	20	-	8	6	-	78
1992	43	7	31	-	7	6	2	96
1993	32	14	16	3	1	12	1	79
1994	21	3	12	6	5	8	1	56
1995	16	3	6	5	5	3	-	38
1996	13	4	8	2	4	3	2	36
1997	5	3	7	-	5	5	1	26
1998	5-6	9	3	3	4-5	1	1	26-28

The first birds of the spring were two at Sevenoaks Reserve on May 2nd, which were followed by a somewhat weak spring passage with no counts of over two received. Autumn migration was stronger, with numbers picking

up from mid-August until late September, the strongest passage being confined to the first three weeks of that period. The highest counts were ten at Theydon Bois on Aug 13th and 26 at Weald Park on Aug 15th. The last record of the year was of two birds in Bushy Park on Oct 20th. All breeding records as well as Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Copped Hall, one pair bred. Grays, one pair. Hainault Forest, 2-3 pairs. Ongar Park Wood, one pair bred.
- Herts Aldenham, one pair. Batchworth, one pair bred. Bricket Wood, two pairs bred successfully. Garston area, one pair present. Otterspool, one pair bred successfully. The Grove, one pair present. Theobalds Park, Enfield, one territory during July.
- Middx Bushy Park, one pair bred. Down Hills Park, one pair bred. West Ruislip GC, family party seen. *Inner London*: Holland Park, single on May 10th (GG). Hyde Park, one territory (RFS) - same as 1997. Kensington Gardens, single on June 20th (DM). Limehouse, two seen during July (DWH). Regents Park, autumn passage from Aug 8th to Sept 14th, comprising 16 bird days (ARD,DJ). Stepney, one pair in St Dunstan's churchyard on an unspecified date in July (DH).
- Bucks Chalfont Park, two pairs bred. Denham, one pair bred.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, one probable pair. Greenwich Park, three pairs, two known to be successful. Hawkwood, one pair.
- Surrey New Addington, a family party seen in Falconwood Road.

1343 Red-breasted Flycatcher

Ficedula parva

Status: very rare vagrant.

- Surrey Beaulieu Heights Wood, a first-winter bird from Nov 5th to 7th (JFn *et al*).

An excellent find for this locality and its local patch-worker - a popular bird that performed well for the many admirers that it attracted. The tenth record for the London Area.

1939 Additional record

- Middx *Inner London*: Ladbroke Square, one on Aug 8th (RSRF).

This becomes the first London record. This record only recently came to light as the observer had forgotten to submit the record due to the outbreak of war!

1349 Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, much more regular in the eastern half of London.

After the excesses of last year it was down to earth with a bump with a well below average showing of just 20 birds, only one of these was in the spring. All records are given.

- Essex Connaught Water, one on Apr 24th (PAB). Fairlop Lake, one on Sept 3rd (AAB). Walthamstow Res, one on Aug 15th (SRH). Weald Park, one on Aug 5th and 6th (CRJ). Yates Meadow, one on Sept 11th (RC).
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one on Sept 4th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, one on Aug 9th (AGr). Hampstead Heath, singles on Aug 8th and 22nd (PWD,WEO). Rammey Marsh, one on Aug 11th (SC,AM). Tottenham Cemetery, singles on Sept 9th and 16th (DL).
- Kent Greenwich Park, one on Sept 23rd.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, singles on Aug 16th and 23rd (EB). Beddington SF, one on Oct 7th (BBR). Limpsfield Chart, one on Sept 4th (PJO). Lonsdale Road Res, a male on Apr 21st (JGn). Morden, one on May 9th (JRL). Morden Hall Park, singles on Apr 23rd, Aug 15th, Sept 4th and 10th (MSR).

1364 Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, very rare breeder.

Another poor year with just three sites reporting any records. What was encouraging however was the presence of birds in suitable habitat during the late spring, although disturbance seemed to thwart any successful breeding attempt.

- Essex Berwick Ponds, one or two calling in reeds on Apr 21st (MKD,SRP). Rainham Marsh, two on Mar 21st and one or two pairs present early in the breeding season, but were disturbed by motorcyclists (SC,MKD,SRP).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Mar 22nd (TWG).

1437 Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Status: common and widespread breeding resident.

Records indicate a stable population. Inner London provided a wealth of observations with 15 locations being visited by this species. Counts of over 40 birds, regularly monitored sites and all Inner London breeding information are given below.

- Essex Beckton, three pairs. Essex Filter Beds, four pairs. Hainault Forest, 35-40 pairs (35 in 1997), 45 on Sept 1st. Mores Wood, two pairs. Ongar Park Wood, two pairs.
- Middx Brent Res, four pairs. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, one pair. Holland Park, five pairs. Hyde Park, two territories in CBC plot (2-3 pairs in 1997). Kensington Gardens, present during breeding season (two pairs bred in 1997). Primrose Hill, one pair. Regents Park, three pairs (five in 1997). St James's Park, one territory.
- Herts Bricket Wood, 28 territories. Garston, 23 territories. Hilfield Park Res, four pairs. Rye Meads SF, eight pairs.
- Kent Foots Cray Woods, four pairs. Maryon Wilson Park, 5-6 territories (5-7 in 1997). Ruxley GP, five pairs. Woodlands Farm, six pairs.

Surrey Arbrook Common, three territories in CBC plot (same as 1997). Ashtead Common, four territories in CBC plot (same as 1997). Beaulieu Heights Wood, 70 on Sept 20th. Morden Hall Park, ten territories (seven in 1997). Nower Wood, two territories in CBC plot (one in 1997). Park Farm, Chessington, four territories in CBC plot (three in 1997). Shirley, 70 on July 6th. South Norwood Lake, 42 on Aug 9th. Wimbledon Common, 50 on Sept 19th and 20th, and Nov 22nd. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, three pairs.

1440 Marsh Tit

Parus palustris

Status: localised breeding resident.

The maximum number of breeding pairs reported in each county during the 1990s was as follows:

Year	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	Totals
1991	24	4	-	-	1	2	31
1992	26	6	-	-	2	9	43
1993	21	6	-	1	c20	11	59
1994	10-12	6	-	1	4	3	26
1995	9	3	-	-	-	6	18
1996	8	5	-	-	-	10	23
1997	5	-	-	-	-	12	17
1998	7	1	-	-	-	10	18

Outside of Essex, Herts and Surrey observers are struggling to find Marsh Tits breeding. In fact, to see this species at all in other county sectors is no mean feat. Surely the wooded North Downs in Kent plays host to this tit as similar habitat in Surrey does. A number of sites in Surrey held birds in the late spring and summer but are not included in the table above owing to insufficient evidence of breeding. The real status of this species must be healthier than that shown. Observers are urged to seek out additional pairs to enable the true picture to be assembled. All records are given below.

Essex Recorded from six sites: Chingford Plain, one on August 5th and 8th. Connaught Water, one pair. Epping Forest, three pairs breeding. Hainault Forest, three pairs (14 pairs in 1988). Mores Wood, one pair (same as 1997). Pole Hill, one on Feb 20th.

Herts Amwell GP, two on Jan 11th. Brickendonbury, one on Sept 4th and two on 18th. Broxbourne Woods, one on Dec 29th. Coppice Wood, Tyttenhanger, two on Jan 30th, Mar 29th, July 10th and Dec 3rd. Fir & Pond Woods, two on Feb 24th. Hertford Heath, one on Nov 30th and regularly in December. Radlett, one on Sept 20th, Oct 25th and Nov 4th with two on Nov 5th. Whippendell Woods, one on Sept 19th.

Middx Osterley Park, two on Jan 1st. Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, one on Nov 19th and Dec 6th and 12th.

Bucks Northmoor Hill Wood, one on Oct 9th. The Clump, Iver Heath, one on Sept 23rd.

Kent Oxleas Wood, one heard several times in February and March.
 Surrey Banstead Wood, one on Mar 8th. Beddlestead Valley, two on Dec 1st. Betchworth, one on May 16th. Bookham Common, five pairs (seven in 1997). Chelsham area, "well spread and holding". Chessington, one on June 1st. Epsom Common, two pairs. Esher Common, one on Nov 8th. Kenley Aerodrome, one on Mar 30th and Apr 2nd. Nower Wood, three pairs (same as 1997). Riddlesdown, one on Apr 7th. Sanderstead, one on Aug 1st. Selsdon, present in breeding season. Titsey Plantation, two on Apr 8th, four on April 27th, three on May 19th, two on Sept 16th and six on Dec 30th. Woldingham, Southawk, up to two during the year.

1442 Willow Tit***Parus montanus***

Status: very scarce and possibly now a former breeding resident.

Assuming that the Kent records refer to an elusive resident, seven birds were recorded at seven sites, an improvement on the four birds seen last year, but still a major cause for concern. Proof of breeding has not been substantiated since 1995 and it is worth noting that only ten years ago (1988) the *London Bird Report* did not see the need to report on birds seen outside of the breeding season and was able to publish records of as many as 31 pairs at 22 sites.

Essex Chingford Plain, one on Aug 25th (PAB). Dagenham Chase, one on Apr 3rd was the first for that site (KB). Hainault Forest, a singing male on Apr 19th, but did not stay (AAB).
 Herts Rye Meads SF, one on Mar 28th (RMRG).
 Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, singles in August and December (MC,PTt).
 Surrey Headley Heath, one calling and singing during January and February (APe). Limpsfield Chart, one on Dec 2nd (PJO).

1461 Coal Tit***Parus ater***

Status: common breeding species.

A difficult year to accurately assess the total population as counts from a number of regularly monitored sites were not submitted and the obvious fall in Essex was countered by a significant rise in the number of pairs found in Inner London (to 14 pairs from 4-5 in 1997).

Essex Hainault Forest, 12-14 pairs (20 pairs in 1997). Havering CP, 6-7 pairs (8-10 in 1997). Ongar Park Wood, 12 pairs.
 Herts Berrygrove Wood, four territories (five in 1997). Bricket Wood, 17+ territories (17-19 in 1997). Garston, 14 territories (ten in 1997). Potters Crouch Plantation, seven plus territories.
 Middx *Inner London*: Arkwright Road, NW3, one pair. Buckingham Palace, one present in the breeding season. Holland Park, one pair bred. Hyde Park, two territories (1-2 in 1997). Kensington Gardens, one pair. Paddington

Green, one pair may have bred. Regent's Canal, two territories. Regent's Park, four pairs bred. St James's Park, two pairs in 1997.

Kent Few reports received and none of any over two pairs.

Surrey Arbrook Common, two territories in CBC plot (same as 1997). Nower Wood, one territory in CBC plot (two in 1997),

1462 Blue Tit

Parus caeruleus

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Swings and roundabouts for this ubiquitous tit with losses at some sites being compensated for by gains at others. The overall impression was one of a stable population. There were only five counts of over 50 birds, the highest being 70 at Hainault Forest on Sept 6th. Selected breeding records, including all from Inner London are given below.

Essex Essex Filter Beds, 15 pairs. Hainault Forest, 100 pairs (100 in 1996). Mores Wood, 13 pairs (14 in 1997). Rainham Marsh, 7-8 pairs. Toot Hill, 29 pairs in CBC plot (20 in 1997).

Herts Garston area, 80 territories. Hilfield Park Res, 24 pairs. Rye Meads SF, 16 pairs.

Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, seven territories. Middlesex Filter Beds, 12 pairs (11 in 1997). *Inner London*: Brunswick Park, 2-3 territories. Buckingham Palace, bred. Great College Street, SW1, 1-2 pairs. Hyde Park, 18 territories in CBC plot (14-16 in 1997). Kensington Gardens, bred. Primrose Hill, bred. Regents Canal at St Johns Wood, almost certainly bred. Regents Park, bred but numbers unknown. St James's Park, four territories in CBC plot (seven in 1997). Steele's Road, NW3, one pair. Temple Gardens, one pair.

Kent Maryon Wilson Park, 18-20 pairs (15-20 in 1997). Woolwich Common, 7-8 territories.

Surrey Arbrook Common, 17 territories in CBC plot (27 in 1997). Ashtead Common, 30 territories in CBC plot (25 in 1997). Barwell Court Farm, 23 territories in CBC plot (18 in 1997). Long Ditton, ten territories in CBC plot (13 in 1997). Nower Wood, 45 territories in CBC plot (50 in 1997). Park Farm, Chessington, 26 territories in CBC plot (25 in 1997). *Inner London*: Burgess Park, one pair. Surrey Docks, bred.

1464 Great Tit

Parus major

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Most sites reported an increase in breeding numbers, the number of locations in Inner London where this tit is nesting also being on the increase. Those searching for large autumn/winter concentrations were, as last year, disappointed - on only three occasions were more than 25 birds found, the peak being 30 on beech mast at West End Common on Jan 11th. Selected breeding records, including all from Inner London are given below.

- Essex Essex Filter Beds, eight pairs. Hainault Forest, 80 pairs (same as 1997). More's Wood, nine pairs (seven in 1997). Toot Hill, 12 pairs in CBC plot (10 pairs in 1997).
- Herts Garston area, 40 territories. Hilfield Park Reservoir, 14 pairs. Rye Meads SF, 22 pairs.
- Middx *Inner London*: Brunswick Park, one territory. Buckingham Palace, bred. Gordon Square, one pair. Great College Street, one pair. Hyde Park, 12 pairs in CBC plot (11-12 pairs in 1997). Kensington Gardens, bred. Primrose Hill, almost certainly bred. Regent's Park, bred but numbers unknown. St James Park, six territories in CBC plot (four territories in 1997). Steele's Road, NW3, one pair. Tavistock Square, one pair.
- Kent Maryon Wilson Park, 8-10 territories, (10-12 territories in 1997).
- Surrey Arbrook Common, 14 territories in CBC plot (11 in 1997): Ashtead Common, 21 territories in CBC plot (20 in 1997). Barwell Court Farm, 13 territories in CBC plot (seven in 1997). Long Ditton, seven territories in CBC plot (nine in 1997). Nower Wood, 22 territories in CBC plot (17 in 1997). Park Farm, Chessington, 17 territories in CBC plot (11 in 1997). *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, bred,

1479 Nuthatch***Sitta europaea***

Status: common breeding resident.

Mixed fortunes for this species as observers in Essex reported a drop in breeding numbers, but elsewhere the population was holding its own or even increasing, particularly in Hertfordshire. A selection of breeding counts and all Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Hainault Forest, 3-4 pairs (five in 1997). Havering CP, one pair (two pairs in 1997). Weald Park, 4-5 pairs (seven in 1997).
- Herts Bricket Wood area, 16 territories (12-13 in 1997). Garston, five territories (two in 1997). SW Herts, "a significant increase in compared to 1997".
- Middx Hampstead Heath, 5-6 calling in April. *Inner London*: Hyde Park, one territory (same as 1997). Kensington Gardens, one pair. Regents Park, a single seen on June 14th.
- Kent Greenwich Park, 4-5 pairs (3-4 pairs in 1997). Maryon Wilson Park, one territory (two in 1997).
- Surrey Arbrook Common, two territories in CBC plot (one in 1997). Barwell Court Farm, one territory in CBC plot (same as 1997). Nower Wood, seven territories in CBC plot (three in 1997).

1486 Treecreeper***Certhia familiaris***

Status: common breeding resident.

Under recorded but indisputably scarce in many areas, the general trend is for a small fall in the London population. To assess the true status of this species observers are asked to make a special effort to track down

the weak song of this unobtrusive bird and report their findings. A selection of breeding counts and all Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Bedfords Park, 2-3 pairs. Chingford Plain, two pairs in Warren Wood, "appears scarcer than usual". Hainault Forest, eight pairs (10 in 1997). Havering CP, 5-6 pairs (3-4 in 1997). Ongar Park Wood, 5-6 pairs.
- Herts Bedmond, three territories. Bricket Wood area, 20 territories (18-20 in 1997). Six other sites reported breeding birds (all one or two pairs).
- Middx *Inner London*: Hyde Park, one territory in CBC plot (1-2 in 1997). Park Square East, one on Apr 4th. Regents Park, one pair bred. St James's Park, one on Nov 10th.
- Kent Only three sites reported breeding taking place. Maryon Wilson Park, two territories (same as 1997).
- Surrey Arbrook Common, one territory in CBC plot (four in 1997). Nower Wood, three territories in CBC plot (same as 1997).

1508 Golden Oriole

Oriolus oriolus

Status: rare passage migrant, most often in May.

- Middx Hampstead Heath, a singing male from 08.05 to 08.15 on May 17th was seen briefly (PWD).
- Surrey Kings Wood, Sanderstead, a male singing for ten minutes on May 4th was heard but not seen (JBi).

After a blank year in 1997, these two sightings are a slight return to form for this splendid songster. There have been 20 records during the 1990s, all but two of which have been in May or June, with the other two falling in July and September.

1515 Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

Status: rare migrant, mainly in autumn; previously regular breeder.

- Essex Barking Marsh, a singing male on July 4th (GH). Essex Filter Beds, a female on Sept 18th (IK).
- Middx Bury Farm, Edgware, a male on June 7th (FB). Hampstead Heath, a female on May 21st (PWD,WEO).

After the blank year in 1997 (only the second since 1989), four records equals the best year of the 1990s. There have been 16 records this decade: three in May, two in June, two in July, two in August and five in September.

1520 Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Status: rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

- Middx Pinner Park Farm, a very well documented bird on Oct 12th (JRi).

**Shrike sp*****Lanius sp***

Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, a bird flying SW at 07.16 on Nov 7th (DMH) was considered by the Records Committee to be insufficiently documented to eliminate either Lesser Grey Shrike or Steppe Grey Shrike.

1539 Jay***Garrulus glandarius***

Status: common breeding resident, with numbers boosted by immigrants in autumn and winter.

This widespread species showed a small influx in October as has been anticipated in recent years. More records of the species were received after last year's comment on under-recording. Notable breeding records and Inner London records are given.

Essex Beckton, one pair bred (new to site). Canning Town, one pair bred. Chingford Plain, 40 on Oct 25th. Epping Forest, 30-40 on Whitehall Plain on Oct 4th. Fairlop Lake, six on Sept 27th (very unusual record for site). Hainault Forest, above average numbers in late September and October, often in more open areas away from main woodland as a result of poor acorn crop; 50+ on Oct 3rd.

Herts Bricket Wood area, 30 territories. Garston area, seven territories.
 Middx Bushy Park, 15 on Oct 1st and 15th. Hampstead Heath, 100+ at end of September. *Inner London*: Aberdare Gardens, NW6, present throughout the year, with maximum of five on Sept 13th. Buckingham Palace, three on Apr 15th. Compayne Gardens, NW6, five on Mar 27th and four on Apr 7th. Cunningham Place, NW8, two on Sept 16th. Frampton Street, NW8, three on Oct 7th. Green Park, one on Oct 20th. Hyde Park, three pairs in CBC plot (one in 1997). Kensington Gardens, one present during breeding season. Paddington Green, W2, pair bred and raised one young, four on Sept 16th and one on Oct 14th. Primrose Hill, one on June 30th, small

numbers throughout September and October with maximum of eight on Oct 7th. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, minimum of two on various dates between Sept 16th and Oct 12th, with maximum of ten on Sept 17th. St James's Park, one on Apr 11th, June 3rd and Nov 18th and 26th. Steele's Rd, NW3, one throughout year. Victoria Park, maximum of two on several dates.

Kent Bexley Wood, 11 on Mar 20th. Clay Tye Wood, 80+ nests. Crystal Palace Park, 18 on Oct 11th. Greenwich Park, probably bred, ten in October including juveniles. Hither Green Cemetery, two pairs on May 1st. Maryon Wilson Park, 2-3 pairs bred.

Surrey Arbrook Common, three territories on CBC plot (four in 1997). Barwell Court Farm, three territories on CBC plot (six in 1997). Kew Gardens, maximum of 21 on Oct 30th. Long Ditton, one territory on CBC plot (same as 1997). Morden Hall Park, six territories, 15 on Sept 9th and 27th. Nunhead Cemetery, c12 on Mar 18th, one pair bred. Oxted (Central), pair bred. Park Farm, Chessington, three territories on CBC plot (four in 1997). Richmond Park, 25 on Feb 15th. Wimbledon Common, 20 on Oct 9th and 19th. *Inner London*: Burgess Park, one on June 11th and Nov 11th. Kennington Park, pair bred. Redriff Road, c20 between Oct 11th and 16th. Southwark Park, two on Feb 10th. Surrey Docks, up to two throughout year.

1549 Magpie

Pica pica

Status: abundant breeding resident.

A very successful bird adept at exploiting niches even in the urban centre. High breeding counts, CBC counts, highest county counts and Inner London records are given below.

Essex Connaught Water, 78 on Jan 4th roosting at Whitehall Plain. Essex Filter Beds, maximum roost of 40 on Dec 1st represents a decrease on previous years. Hainault Forest, 30 pairs on June 1st. Rainham Marsh, 11-12 pairs bred, 86 pre-roost gathering on Sept 18th. South Weald, 50 on Jan 23rd.

Herts Rye Meads SF, seven pairs bred. Stocker's Lake, 47 on Dec 13th.

Middx Middlesex Filter Beds, four pairs bred, maximum of 45 in roost during October. *Inner London*: Buckingham Palace, one pair bred (2 nests in 1997). Dingley Place, EC1, two in February. Embankment Gardens, three on Sept 22nd. Green Park, one pair bred. Hanover Square, W1, one pair on June 1st. Hyde Park, three pairs on CBC plot (3-4 in 1997). Kensington Gardens, one pair bred. Limehouse, present throughout with maximum of seven on Sept 15th. Primrose Hill, up to 12 throughout the year. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, ten including one juvenile on June 17th. Regent's Park, bred, exact number not known. Tavistock Square, WC1, pair on Apr 29th. Victoria Park, maximum of 15 in September.

Kent Bexley Wood, maximum of 40 on Jan 1st. Greenwich Park, about five breeding pairs. Maryon Wilson Park, up to three pairs bred. Swanscombe Marsh, 20 on Jan 11th. Woolwich Common, three pairs bred.

Surrey Arbrook Common, four territories on CBC plot (2 in 1997). Ashtead Common, eight territories on CBC plot (7 in 1997). Barwell Court Farm, six territories on CBC plot (same as 1997). Cannon Hill Common, ten nests (same as 1997). Epsom Common, 60 at roost on Mar 9th and 85 on Dec 14th. Farthing Downs, 250-300 at roost on Jan 18th and 50 on Dec 27th. Nower Wood, two territories on CBC plot. Park Farm, Chessington, eight territories on CBC plot (same as 1997). South Norwood Lake, maximum of 57 in January/February pre-roost. *Inner London*: Bankside PS, one on July 26th. Kennington, up to two March to May. Surrey Docks, 23 on Feb 10th, pair bred.

1560 Jackdaw***Corvus monedula***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in urban areas.

Increased numbers were present in the winter months, with the Surrey sector holding the largest populations. Passage again appeared to be light this year. All Inner London records, breeding records and notable counts are given below.

- Essex Bedford's Park, 7-8 pairs. Hainault Forest, 12-14 pairs. Havering CP, 4-5 pairs. Ongar, 150 on Feb 8th. Waltham Abbey, 300 flying to roost on Nov 8th.
- Herts Abbots Langley, 100+ on May 4th. Chess Valley, 31 on May 10th. Chiswell Green, c150 on Dec 28th. Garston area, ten pairs present. Holywell Hill, two pairs present. Radlett, 50 on Feb 27th.
- Middx Hampstead Heath, pair bred in Kenwood (first for some time), 70 on Oct 16th and 19th. Hounslow Heath, 50 on Feb 22nd. Trent Park, 175 on Nov 7th. *Inner London*: Primrose Hill, two flew N on Sept 14th, one flew N on Oct 20th. Regent's Park, one or two on several dates March to May, with seven on Mar 18th, two on Sept 14th and 22 on Oct 18th.
- Bucks Chalfont Park, eight pairs resident. Colnbrook, strong resident population, with 58 on Apr 8th. Denham, several pairs. Kingcup Farm, 44 on Feb 28th. Langley Park, 32 pairs including some at nest holes on Feb 25th. Queen Mother Res, 150 flew NW on Feb 1st.
- Kent Foots Cray Meadows, 24 on Mar 21st. Hoblingwell Wood, 42 flew SW on Oct 17th. Petts Wood, up to 30 on newly sown wheat field.
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm, five territories on CBC plot (2 in 1997). Beddington SF, 150 in January and 200 in February. Epsom Common, colony of 60+ birds February-July. Hersham, 80 at Church Farm on Dec 5th, 145 flew SW out of roost on Apr 10th. Horton CP, c500 both winter periods. Park Farm, Chessington, two territories on CBC plot. Riddlesdown, South Croydon, 100 on Jan 17th, 130 in quarry on Feb 4th, about ten pairs breeding and 50 on June 3rd. Rushett Farm, 75 on Mar 15th.

1563 Rook***Corvus frugilegus***

Status: common breeding resident, much scarcer in urban areas.

The number of rookeries appears to be fairly stable, although there appears to be some transfer between sites. A new rookery was located at Leggetts Wood, north Watford. Some rookeries reported last year had no records submitted, so to reiterate last year's comment, it would be useful if observers would continue to submit all rookery records. Large counts and all breeding records are given below. Number of nests in parentheses. There were no Inner London records.

- Essex Bedfords Park (7), first in area for some time. Hainault Forest, 120 on Aug 26th and 250 on Dec 5th. Ongar, 500 on Feb 8th.
- Herts Borehamwood (5+). Bricket Wood, 120 on Jan 14th. Grove Mill Lane, Watford (17). Hunton Bridge Hill (19). Langleybury School Watford (36). Leggett's Wood (17), new site. Marshalwick (10+). Micklefield Green (c15). Verulamium Lake (7).
- Bucks Denham Place (88). Long Coppice (58). Richings Park (40).
- Kent Lullingstone Lake/Park (c15).
- Surrey Epsom Common (12). Godstone, M25 Junction (8). Oxted, Greenacres, (11). Oxted, Polesdon Farm (19). Titsey, three rookeries (43, 13 and 6).

1567 Carrion Crow***Corvus corone***

Status: abundant, breeding resident.

An extremely successful resident, breeding right into the city centre where suitable large trees are available for nesting. Counts over 100 and some Inner London records are given.

- Essex Essex Filter Beds, 120 on Feb 2nd. Hainault Forest, 15 pairs. Hollow Pond, 111 on Jan 4th. Rainham Marsh, 250 on Jan 17th, 300 on Feb 21st and May 9th, 200 in October, 400 on Nov 7th and 350 on Dec 19th. Walthamstow Res, 360 roosting on Nov 21st. Wanstead Park, 200 roosting in latter half of the year.
- Herts Bricket Wood/Common, 400 on Jan 14th.
- Middx Brent Res, 550 at roost on Feb 5th and 250 on Mar 22nd. Hampton Court Park, 165 on Feb 3rd. *Inner London*: Hyde Park, two pairs on CBC plot. Paddington Green, W2, one pair bred and raised four young. One seen killing a juvenile Starling and, more surprisingly, a family of five attacked and killed a young grey squirrel on June 30th. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, two pairs probably bred. Regent's Park, bred, exact numbers not known. St James's Park, no territories on CBC plot (1 in 1997). Victoria Park, 94 in November.
- Bucks Colnbrook, 'feeding flock' of 150 most of the year. Kingcup Farm, 200 on Feb 28th.
- Kent Catford, 100 on Mar 29th. Greenwich Park, 100 on Jan 1st. Petts Wood, 400 on freshly sown wheat fields on Mar 30th. Sevenoaks Reserve, 105 on Apr 4th.

Surrey Beddington SF, 200 in May. Hersham GP, 200 on Jan 24th and 100 on Mar 20th. Nonsuch Park, 140 on Aug 8th. Nunhead Cemetery, 200 at roost during January, February and November. *Inner London*: Burgess Park, up to 60 in August. English Gardens, SE1, 196 at dusk on Nov 5th.

1582 Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Status: very common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recent BTO Common Bird Census indices revealed a marked decline in this species, though these annual censuses do not cover urban or suburban areas, where substantial proportions of the population breed. Although a couple of the CBC plots monitored reported a slight increase on 1997, the general picture suggests a small progressive decline in the Area. All records of 1,000 or more (or the highest county counts where these were lower) are given, along with details of abnormally plumaged birds and Inner London breeding records and counts of 50 or more.

Essex Rainham Marsh, 2,500 in January, 1,500 in February, 2,000 on Aug 6th, 1,500 in October, 3,000 in November and 3,500 in December. Walthamstow Res, one leucistic bird from Aug 15th into 1999.

Herts Hilfield Park Res, 500+ during September and October.

Middx Ashford, a partial albino on Feb 14th. *Inner London*: Church Street, NW8, c50 at pre-roost gathering on Aug 31st. Hyde Park, one pair bred. Limehouse, highest count of 73 in May. Paddington Green, W2, a leucistic bird on July 15th, up to 55 from October to December. Primrose Hill, highest count of c150 on Sept 30th, c50 flew high NW on Oct 15th appeared to be migrants. Regent's Park, bred.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, an albinotic bird on June 17th.

Kent Charlton Park, c100 on Nov 13th. Crystal Palace Park, 150 on Oct 11th. Greenwich Park, 700 W on Nov 7th. Ruxley GP, 600 at roost on island on June 4th.

Surrey Arbrook Common, no nests located on CBC plot (11 in 1996). Barwell Court Farm, two territories on CBC plot (five in 1997). Beddington SF, 3,000 on Nov 2nd. Kingston Cemetery, 1,000 on May 30th. Long Ditton, three nests on CBC plot (one in 1997). Morden Hall Park, 600 pre-roost joined 2,000 flying E to roost on Jan 12th, c60 pairs bred, slightly down on 1997. Park Farm, Chessington, five nests on CBC plot (1 in 1997). *Inner London*: Burgess Park, 400 on June 11th. County Hall, at least three nests. Surrey Docks, bred, 304 flew SW on Oct 16th. Vauxhall Bridge, 100+ on crane on Oct 20th.

1591 House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Status: common breeding resident, probably declining.

Localised evidence of falling populations continue to be reported, although a couple of observers reported stabilising numbers. Nationally, the

population has fallen by about 6% in the last 20 years. Gatherings of 30 or more, sightings that provide evidence of population levels, as well as Inner London records are given.

- Essex Collier Row, numbers stable or showing a slight increase on recent years. Essex Filter Beds, one pair bred along R. Lea; no winter flocks exceeded ten birds. Hainault Forest, breeding population much reduced, but now apparently stable. Rainham Marsh, 100 on Sept 5th. Walthamstow, 40 in Blackhorse Road on Sept 18th.
- Herts Garston area, 60 territories found in summer during survey.
- Middx Brent Res, 30 on Jan 18th. Bushy Park, decline continues with none on June 1st. Enfield, 50 at Turkey Street on Aug 28th. Middlesex Filter Beds, two in November and December were the only records. Millfields Park, numbers low in 1998, none on June 1st. Wormwood Scrubs, 40 on Aug 30th. *Inner London*: Fortune Street, EC1, four in February. Holland Park, 2-3 pairs bred (30+ pairs in 1995). Hyde Park, 11 pairs on CBC plot (18-20 in 1997). Ironmonger Row, EC1, four in February. Kensington Gardens, bred. King Square Gardens, EC1, six in February. Limehouse, maximum of 73 in May. Paddington Green, W2, c20 throughout the year. Primrose Hill, three on June 25th. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, 55 on June 17th. Regent's Park, bred in three areas. Shoreditch Park, up to five in February. St James's Park, two territories in CBC plot (same as 1997). Steele's Rd, NW3, none seen during year, formerly regular. Toffee Park, up to 15 in February. Victoria Park, peak of 29 in December.
- Kent Hither Green Cemetery, 30 on Jan 18th. Thames Barrier area, 4-5 pairs bred, but winter roost abandoned.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, 63 on July 4th. Barwell Court Farm, two territories on CBC plot (one in 1997). Fetcham, continuing decline. Park Farm, Chessington, 13 nests on CBC plot (19 in 1997). South Norwood CP, 50 on Aug 11th, largest flock for some time. Walton-on-Thames, 50 in Sunbury Lane on Aug 30th. Wimbledon Common, 30 at windmill on Sept 27th. *Inner London*: Ada Road, SE5, c35 during year. Burgess Park, 30 on Feb 8th. Kennington, up to 30 between March and May. Paradise Street, SE17, 30+ all year. Surrey Docks, bred, 140 on Mar 31st and 105 on Nov 16th. Vauxhall Bridge, an unspecified number were heard going to roost.

1598 Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Status: scarce and local breeding resident, population probably still declining.

The Beddington population showed an alarming decline to 27 territories from 49 in 1997. Productivity however, was better in 1998 with the mean number of young per pair being 8.1 (6.0 in 1997). Supplementary winter feeding commenced in late 1998 as it is believed that winter food availability is a critical factor in maintaining population levels. Away from Beddington, up to 12 pairs bred. All records are given, but summarised for key localities.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 1-2 pairs bred along bridle path. Berwick Ponds, 1-2 pairs. Corbets Tey, 1-2 pairs along the road. Dagenham Chase, one on Sept 12th and 13th. Essex Filter Beds, two pairs bred along the R. Lea, all moved away during the winter. Rainham Marsh, four on Feb 4th.
- Middx Middlesex Filter Beds, one pair bred, no winter records. Millfields Park, three pairs bred. Perry Oaks SF, monthly maxima were: eight in March, three in May, 25 in July and four in August. A recently fledged juvenile was seen on May 17th, the nest site was undetected.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 27 territories, monthly maxima: 50 in January, 35 in February, 35 in March, 100 in September and 53 in December. High September numbers were due to abundance of Fat Hen but numbers declined when this was removed. Chelsham, five on Jan 28th. Holmethorpe SP, one on May 23rd. South Croydon, one reported in Kendall Ave South in April, October and November.

1636 Chaffinch***Fringilla coelebs***

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

In the early part of the year there were four flocks in excess of 100 (similar to 1997), the largest of these being 300 at Rushett Farm (Surrey). Once again a good passage was noted in the autumn, with ten counts of 100 or more noted in October and November, the biggest being 691 over Surrey Docks on Oct 15th and 423 over the same site on Nov 6th. Four wintering flocks of more than 100 towards the year-end included one of 250 at Rushett Farm in late November. Details of flocks of 100 or more, breeding totals at regularly monitored sites, all Inner London records and a summary of autumn passage are given below.

- Essex Beckton, 3-4 pairs (1-2 in 1997). Coleman's Farm, Toot Hill, 29 pairs on CBC plot (up from 20 in 1997). Fishers Green, 100 on Dec 2nd. Hainault Forest, 30+ pairs bred, "a slight increase". More's Wood, six pairs (five in 1997). Stapleford Tawney, 100 on Jan 23rd.
- Herts Batlers Green, c100 on Oct 26th. Chess Valley, eight singing males in May. Chorleywood Common, nine singing males in May. Garston area, 35 territories counted. Hilfield Park Res, five singing males during the breeding season. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, ten singing males in April. Rye Meads SF, 18 singing males. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, 100 on Jan 12th.
- Middx Brent Res, two singing males in April. Bushy Park, 3-4 in survey area. Middlesex Filter Beds, three pairs bred. *Inner London*: Brunswick Park, two present from January to July, with a female present on Dec 3rd. Grand Union Canal, seven between Little Venice and Westbourne Green on Nov 4th. Green Park, one on Feb 25th. Holland Park, three pairs during the breeding season with breeding suspected. Hyde Park, five pairs in CBC plot (three in 1997). Kensington Gardens, one present during the breeding season (one pair in 1997). Limehouse, one in December. Paddington Green, one singing male throughout April and May. Regent's

- Park, four pairs bred, 60 on Oct 20th. Victoria Park, two in May and November and seven in December.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 50 on Mar 21st.
- Kent Beckenham Place Park, six territories. Cator Park, Beckenham 2-3 territories. Greenwich Park, one singing male between March and May.
- Surrey Addington Hills, 100 on Jan 6th. Arbrook Common, nine territories on CBC plot (seven in 1997). Ashtead Common, ten territories on CBC plot (13 in 1997). Barwell Court Farm, 15 territories on CBC plot (the same as 1997). Chelsham, 120 at Knights Garden Centre on Dec 16th. Nower Wood, four territories on CBC plot (seven in 1997). Park Farm, Chessington, 12 territories on CBC plot (ten in 1997). Rushett Farm, flock of 300 on Jan 10th, 150 on 24th, 200 on Mar 10th, 180 on Nov 15th and 250 on Nov 21st.

There was a good autumn passage, spanning the period from mid-October to mid-November. The first big peak came on Oct 15th when 691 were logged flying W at Surrey Docks between 10.30 and 13.00 and 100 were counted at Hampstead Heath. On 18th there were 130 flying W at Shooters Hill and another big movement was noted on 20th with 200 NW at Hampstead Heath. On 25th, 76 flew W over Walthamstow Res and 64 passed W over Queen Mother Res. On Nov 1st, 193 flew NW over Brent Res and 190 flew W over Beddington SF. Another big movement took place on Nov 6th when 423 flew mainly W over Surrey Docks, and 120 flew W over Greenwich Park, with 240 W at the latter site the following day. The last numbers of note were 86 NNW over Primrose Hill on Nov 11th.

1638 Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*
 Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

In the early part of the year there were reports from 48 localities, with double-figure counts at 20. This compares favourably with 35 localities and a maximum count of 11 in 1997. The last bird was at Havering CP on May 3rd. Visible migration in the autumn started on Oct 7th and was a little more impressive than in 1997, the peak count was 51 over Surrey Docks on Oct 16th. 31 locations recorded flocks or individuals, but most were very small parties and the biggest was 20 at Knights Garden Centre, Chelsham on Dec 16th. Records of ten or more birds and all Inner London records are given.

- Essex Copped Hall, 50 on Jan 13th and 16th, up to 200 roosting from late January to early February. Epping Forest, 50 in Monks Wood on Jan 21st, 100+ on Jan 22nd, with another 30+ at Long Running the same day. Fairmead, 11 on Jan 14th. Fishers Green, ten on Apr 9th, rising to 33 on 14th. Hainault Forest, 22 on Dog Kennel Hill on Apr 18th. Hawkwood, about 50

- on Jan 21st. Pole Hill, 35 during February. Thorndon Park, 150-200 on Jan 17th, 20 on Feb 8th and 71 on Mar 4th.
- Herts Broxbourne Woods, about 25 on Feb 14th, with 30 on 20th. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, ten on Jan 12th. Hilfield Park Reservoir, 18 on Apr 18th, 24 on 19th and 10 on 22nd
- Middx Bentley Priory, 30 on Mar 18th. Hounslow Heath, 12 on Jan 9th. Staines Res, ten on Oct 4th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, singles on Feb 4th and 10th, and Apr 1st and 21st; then a good run of autumn records, starting with five on Oct 16th, singles on 18th and 19th, seven on 25th, eight on 30th, singles on Nov 7th and 10th, and six on 15th.
- Bucks Black Park, 12 on Jan 12th and ten on Feb 14th.
- Kent Greenwich Park, 15 on Nov 7th.
- Surrey Addington Hills, 40 in January. Chelsham, 25 on Jan 11th, then up to 30 from Jan 26th to Mar 11th; 20 in mixed finch flock on Dec 16th. Greenwich Park, 15+ flew W with Chaffinches over on 7th. Holt Wood, 20 in roost on Mar 1st. Riddlesdown, South Croydon, up to 18 between Jan 17th to Apr 20th. West End Common, 15 on Jan 20th, with 10-12 on Feb 3rd. Wimbledon Common, 15-20 on Apr 10th. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, 51 mainly SW between 08.15 to 11.15 on 16th.

1640 Serin *Serinus serinus*

Status: rare vagrant.

- Middx *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one female present from 06.25 to 08.40 on Apr 23rd (ARD). Paddington Green, one flew N at 15.00 on Sept 17th (DM).

Two records in one year is quite exceptional, particularly so as they were both in Inner London. These are the 13th and 14th records for London.

1996 Additional record

- Middx Gillespie Park, one on Mar 26th (RBd, RM, RF, WF).

1649 Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Three sites registered counts of 100 or more (four in 1997), still down on the numbers from the years before 1993. Breeding success was mixed, some sites registering a continued decline while others, for example Rainham Marsh, noted small increases. Highest county counts, breeding totals from regularly monitored sites, all Inner London records and evidence of autumn migration are given.

- Essex Essex Filter Beds, four pairs bred along the River Lea and two pairs bred in the filter beds. Hainault Forest, 7-8 pairs (eight pairs in 1997). Rainham

- Marsh, five pairs (1-2 in 1997), 110 on Oct 3rd. Toot Hill, three pairs on CBC plot (six in 1997).
- Herts Chess Valley, two singing males in May. Chorleywood Common, one singing male in May. Garston area, 25 territories. North Watford, 37 on Feb 19th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, four singing males in May. Rye Meads SF, 13 singing males.
- Middx Bedfont CP, 100 on Aug 1st. Bushy Park, only one known nest. Lake Farm, 70 on Oct 4th. Middlesex Filter Beds, one pair bred. Yiewsley Lake, 65 on Sept 27th. *Inner London*: Hyde Park, seven pairs in CBC plot (4-5 in 1997). Kensington High Street, one pair bred at the Storehouse Roof Garden. Primrose Hill, one pair bred. Regent's Canal, St John's Wood, four singing males almost certainly bred. Regent's Park, four pairs bred, double-figure numbers present from Oct 19th, peaking at 50 on Oct 20th, before declining to ten on Nov 10th.
- Bucks Langley Park, 100 on Oct 1st.
- Kent Beckenham Place Park, two singing males in May. Charlton Park, 3-4 pairs bred. Dartford Marsh, 20+ on Nov 4th. Deptford Creek, one singing male in May. Hither Green Cemetery, four singing males in April. Maryon Wilson Park, one pair bred. Thames Barrier area, three pairs bred. Woodlands Farm, 11 territories. Woolwich Common, one pair bred.
- Surrey Ashtead Common, three territories on CBC plot (two in 1997). Barwell Court Farm, two territories on CBC plot (none in 1997). Claremont Lake, 160 on Dec 31st. Harrods School, Barnes, four pairs nested. Morden Hall Park, four territories (three in 1997). Park Farm, Chessington, four territories on CBC plot (one in 1997). Wimbledon Common, four singing males in breeding season. *Inner London*: Burgess Park, two territories. Southwark Park, one territory. Surrey Docks, three territories; 26 were present on Nov 6th.

There was some evidence of a light autumn passage: in October a total of 16 birds at Surrey Docks on 9th included 11 flying S, while on November 1st, 30 were logged flying W at Brent Res.

1653**Goldfinch*****Carduelis carduelis***

Status: fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant.

In the first half of the year this species was decidedly thin on the ground, with no flocks of 100 (compared with four in 1997); indeed, the largest was 60 at a feeding station in Alexandra Drive, Surbiton, on Feb 26th. Breeding fortunes seemed to be mixed. Autumn passage was noted at only a few sites, and the biggest party seen moving numbered just 15. Six sites held flocks of 100 or more in the second half of the year (compared with two in 1997), with Rainham Marsh once again holding the largest, 200 in September. Groups of 50 or more, a few breeding records, all Inner London records and details of autumn visible movements are given.



- Essex Harold Wood SF, 58 on Jan 26th. King George V Res, about 100 on Aug 29th. Rainham Marsh, 21 pairs in the breeding season (20 in 1997); numbers built from 100 on Aug 8th to 180 on 22nd, 200 on Sept 12th, then declined, though 50 were still present on Dec 20th.
- Herts Bricket Wood area, six territories. Bushey, at least five territories. Garston area, six territories.
- Middx Wormwood Scrubs, 100 on Sept 9th. *Inner London*: Frampton Street, NW8, six on Feb 20th. Limehouse, two present in May and July. Paddington Green, WC2, a pair possibly bred. Primrose Hill, two on June 24th, a juvenile on July 2nd, and a singing male on July 8th suggests breeding nearby; 4-5 on Sept 30th, 15 flew N on Oct 15th. Regent's Park, for the first time since 1945 there was no confirmed breeding; four flew NW on Apr 23rd, a single was present on Oct 21st, with two on Nov 5th and 30 the following day. Victoria Park, peak counts of two in May, three in June, 42 in October and eight in November. Westbourne Green, six on Nov 4th.
- Bucks Denham Mount, 40 in March and April.
- Kent Erith Marsh, 120 on Aug 28th and 85 in December.
- Surrey Alexandra Drive, Surbiton, two broods produced eight juveniles. Barwell Court Farm, four territories on CBC plot (three in 1997). Morden Hall Farm, two territories (the same as 1997). Park Farm, Chessington, one territory on CBC plot (the same as 1997). *Inner London*: Burgess Park, four from May to August. Jamaica Road, SE16, two on July 14th. South Bermondsey, one territory on waste ground on the Silwood Estate. Surrey Docks, a minimum of four territories; peak counts of 11 on Jan 20th and Apr 23rd, and 17 on Oct 16th.

1654 Siskin

Carduelis spinus

Status: common winter visitor, passage migrant and increasingly regular in summer; potential breeding species.

In the early part of the year there were 11 flocks of 100 or more (four in 1997), with a maximum of 200+ at Stocker's Lake on Jan 15th. There

were breeding season records from two sites in Surrey. Visible migration was noted at several sites in the autumn, but only small numbers were involved, the largest count being 11 flying E at Primrose Hill on Oct 8th. The second-winter period was very disappointing with no flocks of 100 or more (14 in 1997), and a peak of just 60 at Trent Park on Oct 13th. Groups of 70 or more, sightings from the breeding season and Inner London records are given.

- Essex Beckton, one flew high S on the unusual date of June 26th. Cornmill Meads, 100 on Jan 1st. Weald Park, 100 on Jan 1st.
- Herts Abbots Langley, male courtship-feeding female on Apr 3rd, still present on 13th but not subsequently. Amwell GP, 120 on Jan 2nd. Stocker's Lake, 200+ on Jan 15th.
- Bucks Black Park, 100 on Feb 28th.
- Middx Bushy Park, 120 on Jan 13th. Hampstead Heath, five on Apr 30th. Hampstead, pair on garden feeders in early August. Trent Park, two on May 8th. *Inner London*: Holland Park, one singing male on Mar 23rd. Hyde Park, up to 30 in January and March. Paddington Green, W2, one on Apr 1st and 2nd. Primrose Hill, 11 flew E on Oct 8th. Regent's Park, small numbers reported on many dates until May 5th, with a peak of 16 on Apr 16th; two on Oct 5th followed by small numbers until Nov 27th. St James's Park, about 20 on Jan 14th.
- Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, 120 on Jan 3rd, 180 in February.
- Surrey Coulsdon, one in Keston Avenue in July. Egham, 100 in Whitehall Lane and Rusham Park Avenue in late January. Esher Common, 100 at Black Pond on Feb 16th. Hersham, 150 by the River Mole on Jan 15th. Princes Coverts, 150 on Jan 9th. Selsdon, one in Rylandes Road in June and August. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, up to ten in February, one flew N on Oct 15th.

1660 **Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

In the early part of the year there were five flocks of 100 or more (six in 1997), with 300+ at Beddlesstead Valley on Oct 7th. Ten locations recorded flocks of 100 or more from late August (12 in 1997), with 550 at Barking Marsh on Nov 21st being the biggest. There was some evidence of passage in April and again in October and November, with 80 WNW over Morden Hall Park on Nov 1st. Counts of 100 or more or the highest county figures where these are smaller, some breeding figures and all Inner London records are given.

- Essex Barking Marsh, 130 on Aug 22nd, increasing to 180 on Sept 19th, 230 on Oct 23rd, and 550 on Nov 21st, but decreasing to 100 in December. Dagenham Corridor, 120 on Nov 8th. Essex Filter Beds, two pairs in the filter beds and one pair at nearby River Lea. Hainault Forest, 12-14 pairs ("slight decrease"), 100 on Sept 19th. Rainham Marsh, 25 pairs bred

- ("has decreased"); 150 throughout most of January, with 200 on 31st; 150 on Feb 7th; 125 on Aug 8th increasing to 150 on Oct 18th and 200 on Nov 28th. South Hornchurch, 260 on Nov 15th.
- Herts Bricket Wood, five territories. Garston area, one territory. Stanborough Reedmarsh, 150 on Oct 2nd. Rye Meads SF, five singing males.
- Middx Osterley Park, c150 from Nov 24th to the year end. Perry Oaks SF, 125 on Sept 6th. Staines Res, 100 on Nov 14th and 212 on 26th. Vicarage Farm, 150 on Jan 14th. *Inner London*: Primrose Hill, one flew W on June 17th, two flew NW on Oct 15th. Regent's Park, up to seven on several dates in first half of the year, with 12 on Apr 27th, then one on Sept 26th, 20 on Oct 1st, ten on 2nd and 5th and the last two on 15th.
- Bucks Shire Lane, 20+ on Mar 11th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 100+ on Jan 20th. Hall Place Gardens, two territories.
- Surrey Ashstead Common, two territories on CBC plot (one in 1997). Barwell Court Farm, one territory on CBC plot (two in 1997). Beddlestead Valley, 300+ on Oct 7th, with 150 present on Nov 3rd. Chessington, one territory on CBC plot (two in 1997). Holmethorpe SP, three pairs bred. Park Farm, Riddlesdown, South Croydon, 120 on Feb 2nd. Rushett Farm, 150 on Jan 24th and 100 on Mar 10th. *Inner London*: Camellia Street Nature Park, one, June 17th. Chamber's Wharf, SE16, four on May 23rd. Surrey Docks, a minimum of one territory, a peak of 23 in November.

1663 Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Status: uncommon breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were three flocks of 100 or more early in the year, with Rushett Farm (Surrey) holding the biggest – 150 on Jan 10th. Numbers were down in late year, the largest flock being 45 at Sevenoaks Reserve on Dec 13th. There were reports of breeding/summering from just five sites (compared to 20 in 1988). There was little evidence of autumn passage. Breeding records, counts of 20 or more and Inner London records are listed.

- Essex Eagle Pond, 20 on Jan 1st. Fairmead, 30 during January. Hainault Forest, one pair summered. Havering CP, one pair summered. Hornchurch CP, 25 on Jan 18th. Pole Hill, 22 during February.
- Herts Berrybushes Wood, about 30 on May 4th. Garston, up to 23 in January and February. Rye Meads SF, a pair in May.
- Middx Alexandra Park, 25 on Feb 5th. Bentley Priory, 20 on Nov 22nd. Broadgate GP, 20 on Nov 17th. Bushy Park, 40 throughout much of April, with 100 on 21st. Hampstead Heath, maximum of 40 in January, 30 in February and March and 20 in April. *Inner London*: Hyde Park, six on Apr 13th. Regent's Park, up to three in early part of the year, with one still present on May 12th, then one on several dates from Oct 9th and two on Nov 10th.
- Bucks Black Park, 20 present on Mar 21st and 24th, 40 on Apr 29th and a singing male on May 4th.

Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, 45 in December. Chipstead Lake, 25 on Nov 1st.
 Surrey Beddlestead Farm, 120 on Feb 10th. Court Lane, Dulwich, maximum of 20 in March. Dulwich Park, 30 on Apr 18th. Headley Heath, 30 on Jan 29th. Henley Wood, Chelsham, 20 on Jan 26th. Holt Wood, Chelsham, 25 on Jan 17th. Kew Gardens, 40 in Queen's Cottage grounds on Apr 19th. Rushett Farm, 150 on Jan 10th, with 90 still there on Mar 15th and 25 on Apr 10th. Walton Heath, at least four territories. Warlingham, 20 at Court Farm on Feb 2nd and 60 in Oakley Road on May 6th. Wimbledon Common, 35 at Mound Ravine Wood on Apr 10th, 50 at Tangier Monument on Apr 18th and 30 at The Mounds on Apr 26th. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, up to three from Apr 20 to 27th, then two at Russia Dock woodland on May 11th.

1663.1 Mealy Redpoll***Carduelis flammea***

Status: scarce irruptive winter visitor

Essex Paynes Lane GP, 22 on Jan 18th and 24th.
 Surrey Rushett Farm, on Jan 10th "a few" among the Lesser Redpolls.

1666 Common Crossbill***Loxia curvirostra***

Status: irruptive visitor; rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).

Following the huge invasion into the London Area in the second half of 1997, about 100 remained in the area during January and February though only about half that number stayed into March and numbers quickly tailed off in April. Birds were seen throughout the spring and summer at a small number of locations, with breeding taking place at one site (Havering CP) and probably at two other sites (Ongar Park Wood and Walton Heath). There was no repeat of the invasion of July 1997 and very few birds were noted in the autumn. The last of the year was at Waltham Cross on Nov 25th. Counts of ten or more birds, or highest county counts where fewer than ten, breeding records and all Inner London records are given

Essex Havering CP, one pair bred, rearing at least one young. Ongar Park Wood, a family party seen on May 26th comprised two males, two females and two juveniles, the latter possibly locally bred. Thorndon Park, 18 on Feb 8th and 17 on Feb 23rd.

Herts Bedmond area, up to 32 between January and Mar 10th. Prae Wood, 30 on Feb 24th, 50 on Mar 12th, c20 on 18th, 25 on 31st and seven on Apr 27th.

Middx Trent Park, 14 flew SW on Feb 6th, 14 present on Feb 10th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one flew W on Apr 14th, one flew NW on May 13th and two flew through the Rose Garden on July 16th.

Bucks Black Park, 30 on Jan 12th, with 30+ on Jan 23rd, 17 on Feb 27th and the last two seen on May 8th.

Kent Thames Barrier, two flew S calling on Feb 11th.

Surrey Holt Wood, Chelsham, 25 on Jan 17th and 30 on Mar 4th. Walton Heath, a group of 13 "in February", and a male and female exhibiting breeding behaviour on Feb 12th. "After probable breeding earlier in the year" a party of seven or eight was seen in flight there on May 24th.

1997 Additional record

Middx Pinner Park Farm, nine on July 19th and three on Aug 20th (JR).

1710 Bullfinch

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Status: fairly common breeding resident.

At least 86 pairs or territories were reported, a little down on 1997 and 1996, though incomplete coverage masks the true picture. The biggest breeding concentrations were in the Bricket Wood area, with 14 territories, and the Garston area, with nine territories. The biggest party was 14 at Coppetts Wood in July. Three passage birds were noted flying W high over King George V Res on Nov 11th. Counts of ten or more birds, or highest county counts where fewer than ten, significant breeding concentrations, as well as breeding records from regularly monitored sites, and all Inner London records are given.

Essex Hainault Forest, six pairs bred ("still slowly decreasing"). Toot Hill, two pairs on CBC plot (one in 1997).

Herts Brickett Wood area, 14 territories (12 in 1997). Garston area, nine territories (eight in 1997). Rye Meads SF, ten present on Jan 17th.

Middx Coppetts Wood, 14 (four adults and ten juveniles) on July 24th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, ten on Sept 20th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, singles on July 11th, Sept 8th, Oct 19th and Nov 10th.

Bucks Wraysbury GP, six on three dates in July and August.

Kent Woodlands Farm, maximum of 12 in January.

Surrey Ashted Common, four territories on CBC plot (same as 1997). Barwell Court Farm, one territory on CBC plot (none in 1997). *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, one flew into the Ecology Park from the S on Nov 6th.

1717 Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Status: very scarce breeding resident; occasional passage migrant.

After a dreadful year in 1997, a slight improvement with birds seen at 13 sites compared with nine in 1997, with probably three pairs breeding (none in 1997). The presence of 13 at Bookham Common in January was encouraging, and the Inner London record is interesting.

Essex Dagnam Park, two on Mar 13th (PS). Hainault Forest, two pairs probably bred (MKD). Ongar Park Wood, one pair bred (AJD). Weald Park, one female on Feb 7th (CRJ) and Mar 1st (SRP), and a singleton on Nov 18th (CRJ). Yardley Hill, Chingford, one on Mar 13th (AC).

- Herts Amwell GP, two on Jan 11th and one on Feb 15th (AH). Broxbourne Woods, one on Feb 1st, a male on Feb 14th, two females on Feb 20th and two on Mar 1st (BR,SC,PL). Haileybury College, two on June 12th (ADW). Post Wood, singles on Mar 29th (BR) and Dec 6th (DJ).
- Middx Bentley Priory, three on Feb 15th, 16th, 24th and Mar 19th; then two on Mar 21st (GSE). *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one flew over on Oct 7th (ARD).
- Surrey Bookham Common, 13 on Jan 23rd (APe), eight on Feb 12th (DH).

1847 Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Status: rare, but annual, autumn and winter visitor.

- Middx Horton Fields, one in stubble fields east of Queen Mother Res on Oct 13th and 14th (CDRH).

An average showing in terms of number and dates, though for the second year running the Essex sector, which used to produce most records of this species in the London Area, drew a blank.

1850 Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.

- Essex King George V Res, a male on Oct 22nd and 23rd (ADW *et al*). Walthamstow Res, one on Dec 4th (DB).

In recent years the Lea Valley reservoirs, especially King George V, have provided the best chance of finding this attractive bunting in our Area, though the number of birds reaching London remains at a low ebb. After last year's spring influx, these records mark a return to more typical dates.

1857 Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Status: widespread but declining breeding resident, occurring away from the suburbs.

At least 148 pairs or singing males were reported during the breeding season, a major increase on the 1997 total of 85 and the highest figure for the 1990s. Most were distributed between Essex, Herts and Surrey, with fewer in Middx and Bucks, and a disproportionately small figure of just three pairs or singing males in Kent – more systematic coverage in this last sector would surely produce a better breeding season result. It remains to be seen whether this year's apparent success represents a true turnaround in the species' long-term decline, especially as decreases were still being noted in some areas; nonetheless, other sites reported a real rise in breeding populations which can only be encouraging. The winter gathering of 60 in Surrey is also noteworthy. All breeding season records (with the number of pairs, singing males or territories in

parentheses), counts of ten or more and records of migrants in built-up areas are given.

- Essex Abridge (1). Berwick Ponds (6), ten in December. Copped Hall (1). Dagnam Park, "bred just outside park boundary". Hainault Forest area (6). Hornchurch CP (6). Lodge Farm (1). Maynards Farm (7). Navestock Lake/Park, "present in breeding season". Ongar Park Wood, now absent (three territories in 1991). Pavills Farm (2). Roydon Mill (1). Sewardstone, "absent from usual sites in breeding season". South Ockendon, 20 on Oct 26th. Stanford Rivers, "present in the breeding season". Toot Hill (6). Upshire (7-8).
- Herts Bedmond, 12+ on Aug 30th. Bricket Wood area (10) – back at 1995 levels after recent decline. Chiswell Green area (12+) – an increase from 7-8 pairs in 1997. Colney Street, Radlett (3). Garston, 35 on Jan 1st but none found breeding for the second consecutive year. Hilfield Park Res (1). Nashes Farm, St Albans (1). Oakridge Lane, Radlett (2). Smallford GP (1). Theobalds Park, Enfield (1+). Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross (2).
- Middx Bury Farm, Edgware, "bred" but no indication of number given. Fernyhill Farm, 23 on Sept 20th. Hampstead Heath, singles on Mar 10th, Apr 8th and 29th. Mudchute City Farm, one on Nov 5th. Parkside Farm/Res, one on May 4th. Pinner Wood Farm, Hatch End, one on June 1st. Trent Park, no breeding season reports received (two pairs in 1997), but 23 on Nov 20th. Vicarage Farm (5); ten on Nov 13th. *Inner London*: Regent's Park, one on Apr 27th.
- Bucks Hollybush Lane (2). Kingcup Farm (1). Shire Lane (1). Tatling End (1).
- Kent Chipstead Lake (2). Lullingstone Park (1).
- Surrey Ashted Common (5), four in 1997. Beddlestead Valley, 10 in November and December. Bookham Common, a singing male on July 31st. Court Farm, Warlingham, 60 on Feb 2nd. Epsom Common (4), "best year for three years". Farthing Downs (2). Headley Heath (2). Holmethorpe SP (4), five in 1997, 20 on Jan 6th. Horton CP, (5), six pairs in 1997, 17 on Feb 14th. Hurst Green (7). Limpsfield Chart (8), 30 in late January, 12 on Feb 14th. Malden Rushett (1). Moorhouse (1). Park Farm, Chessington (2). Riddlesdown, South Croydon (4), three in 1997, ten on Dec 20th. Rushett Farm (2), 20 on Mar 22nd and ten on Nov 8th. Walton Heath area (4).

1877 Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

Status: common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Unlike the previous species there appears to be no change in fortunes for the Reed Bunting, which continues to decline as a breeding bird. Lack of spring and summer reports from some traditional sites means that it is not possible to assess the true position in the London Area, but from those localities reporting trends or actual figures consistently it is clear that the breeding population of this species is still falling. One observer commented that in the Bucks sector "the decline is continuing", while in Middx, for example, the species did not breed at a regular site for

the first time in 13 years. Changes to and loss of habitat do not seem to be the primary factors, as might be expected and indeed in Herts for the third consecutive year the species occupied crops for breeding. An observer in the south west of the county found that "of 13 territories recorded, seven were in wetland sites and six in cereals (five of these in rape)". The most encouraging news comes from Rainham in Essex, where a full site survey showed the species to be much more numerous than figures in previous years had suggested. Breeding season concentrations of five or more pairs or singing males (shown in parentheses) or the highest county total if lower, site maxima of 20 or more, indications of changes in status and all Inner London records are given.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (15); small numbers noted moving west in September/October. Berwick Ponds area (30-40); 40 on Dec 22nd. Rainham Marsh (106), the apparent increase from 40 in 1997 being accounted for by a special survey; 50 on Jan 1st and 55 on Dec 16th. South Ockendon, 20+ on Dec 28th. Walthamstow Marsh (9) – compared to 16 in 1997.
- Herts Aldenham Res (3) – five in 1997. Amwell GP (11) – a decrease from 12 in 1997; 65 at roost on Dec 3rd. Bricket Wood area (4+) – five in 1997. Garston area (1), - absent in 1997. Hilfield Park Res (5). Otterspool (1), - two territories in 1997. Rye Meads SF (10) – ten in 1997. Stanborough Reedmarsh, 45 at roost on Feb 4th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (2) – a decrease from six in 1997. Bushy Park, two possible nests – a decline from seven in 1997. Middlesex Filter Beds, no pairs bred for the first time since 1985. Perry Oaks SF (6). Tottenham Marsh (4) – an increase from three in 1997. *Inner London*: Primrose Hill, one flew S on Oct 15th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, maxima of ten in March and six in May.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, four singing males on Mar 19th was the only breeding season report received (10 pairs or singing males in 1997). Erith Marsh/Crossness (16). Sevenoaks Reserve, two on Apr 18th was the only breeding season report received (six pairs or singing males in 1997). Swanscombe Marsh, 25 on Jan 11th.
- Surrey Barn Elms (9), 23 in October. Beddington SF, 21 pairs (17 in 1997), ten on Sept 19th. Holmethorpe SP (5). Walton Res (24) – an increase from 19 in 1997. Court Farm, Warlingham, 20 on Feb 2nd. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks (1), two present on Nov 6th.

1882 Corn Bunting

Miliaria calandra

Status: declining and increasingly localised breeding resident, occurring away from the suburbs.

The reports received for this species in 1998 were less detailed than previously, making it difficult to determine whether or not it is declining as a breeding bird (as is the case nationally). Last year's minimum figure of 38 pairs or singing males may well have been exceeded if the true picture at two traditional strongholds, Fairlop in Essex and Horton Kirby in Kent,

were known. This year its presence in Surrey in midsummer was an unexpected bonus, and follows the species' consolidation of its breeding numbers last year. All breeding season records (with the number of pairs, singing males or territories in parentheses) are given, along with counts of ten or more and records from built-up areas.

- Essex Berwick Ponds (3-4) – no change from 1997. Dagenham Chase, maximum site count of five on Jan 13th. Fairlop, 20 on Apr 26th was the only report received (12 pairs or singing males in 1997). Fishers Green, one on Apr 25th. Hornchurch CP (3). Rainham Marsh (2), 50 on Jan 1st. South Ockendon, 45 on Nov 21st.
- Herts Chiswell Green area (9). Coursers Lane Fields, London Colney (1). Nashes Farm, St Albans (1-2). Noke Farm, two (one singing) on Mar 21st. Stanborough Reedmarsh, 17 roosting on Dec 5th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one on July 19th. Edgwarebury, one on Aug 2nd.
- Kent Crayford Marsh, one on July 7th. Dartford Marsh (1) – two pairs in 1997; 17 on Apr 7th. Erith Marsh, 12 on Feb 21st. Horton Kirby, two on July 14th was the only report received (10 pairs or singing males in 1997). Swanscombe Marsh (2).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one flew over on Mar 28th. Riddlesdown, South Croydon, six on Mar 21st and two on July 4th. South Norwood CP, one on Nov 28th. South Norwood Lake, two flew over on Oct 25th.

Appendix I: Escapes

The following records relate to birds known, or presumed to be of captive origin. In addition to those listed, there are full-winged individuals of several species of wildfowl in St James's Park.

Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

- Essex Dagenham Chase, a juvenile on Aug 30th and Sept 5th. Rainham Marsh a pair on Aug 26th. Upminster, a pair with two young on a small park lake.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Mar 21st. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Mar 21st.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Nov 11th. Staines Res one on Oct 27th.
Inner London: Kensington Gardens, one on July 7th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, singles on Jan 4th and 6th, Nov 28th and Dec 5th.
- Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, two on Aug 2nd.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, two on Mar 29th, one in July and two on Aug 23rd. Claremont Lake, a pair of pinioned birds in collection bred with five young. Godstone, two at Bay Pond on Jan 8th and 20th. South Norwood CP, two from Jan 3rd to 4th. Thorpe Water Park, present all year with four on Feb 15th. *Inner London*: Battersea Park, one on Oct 21st. Surrey Docks, one on Jan 2nd, 7th, 10th and 20th.

- Black-necked Swan** *Cygnus melanocoryphus*
Essex King George V Res, one from May 8th to Sept 10th and again from Oct 23rd to 30th. Wm Girling Res, one from Sept 14th to Oct 19th.
- 0154 Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*
Herts Stanborough Lakes, one throughout the year.
Surrey Barn Elms WWT, an adult throughout the year.
- 0157 Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*
Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, one of *taiga* race on Feb 15th.
- 0158 Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*
Herts Smug Oak Lane, one with Canada Geese from Dec 28th into 1999.
Kent Chipstead Lake, one with Greylags on Feb 21st
Surrey Holmethorpe SP one on Mar 21st. Kew Gardens one on May 31st.
- 0159 White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*
Essex Royal Victoria Dock, four on Jan 21st and June 21st.
Surrey Barn Elms WWT, singles on May 18th and June 3rd.
- Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus*
Essex Walthamstow Res, an adult on Feb 22nd.
Middx *Inner London*: Hyde Park one on July 16th.
Kent Greenwich Park, singles on Mar 23rd and from Oct 2nd until the year-end. R. Thames, Greenwich, adult on Mar 22nd. Thames Barrier Area, one on Jan 11th.
Surrey Kew Gardens, two fully-winged birds on May 31st. *Inner London*: Surrey Docks singles on Apr 16th and May 29th.
- Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*
Essex Royal Victoria Dock, three on Jan 21st and June 21st. Walthamstow Res, one from May 15th to 31st.
Herts Amwell GP, seven on May 17th. Hilfield Park Res, two on Apr 19th and three on May 9th. Radlett, three on May 3rd, five on 10th and one from 11th to 13th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Aug 27th.
Middx Hampton Court Park one on Aug 13th, Dec 10th and from 13th to 28th. Kempton Park Res, singles on May 18th and June 2nd. *Inner London*: Kensington Gardens, two at the Round Pond on March 27th. Victoria Park, singles on Apr 2nd and June 25th.
Bucks Thorney Weir Lake, one on May 20th. Wraysbury GP, six on June 14th.
Kent Sevenoaks Reserve, one on six dates in March and on Apr 18th. Sydenham Wells Park, one fully-winged on Dec 11th.
Surrey Beddington SF, two on May 5th. Kew Gardens, six pairs with three broods on May 31st. River Thames, Richmond, five on Nov 22nd and Dec 20th. South Norwood CP, one from Jan 3rd to 4th, 1-2 in July/August and one on Oct 4th.

Snow Goose***Anser caerulescens***

Surrey Godstone, Bay Pond, one 'Lesser' on Apr 19th.

Swan Goose***Anser cygnoides***

Essex Walthamstow Res, one all year.

Surrey Holmethorpe SP, one on May 17th.

Emperor Goose***Anser canagicus***

Surrey Kew Gardens one on May 31st. Queen Elizabeth II Res, one on May 16th and 20th. R. Thames, Sunbury Lock, singles on three dates in January; Feb 18th; May 17th and 20th; and Aug 19th. Walton Res, one on Sept 17th.

0167 Barnacle Goose***Branta leucopsis***

Essex Connaught Water singles on Feb 14th, Mar 22nd and Apr 9th. Cornmill Meads, one on Feb 1st and two on Dec 20th. Fishers Green, one in spring with three on Apr 3rd and May 3rd and two on Apr 5th. Hall Marsh, one on May 3rd. Walthamstow Res, one from July 3rd to 27th.

Herts Amwell GP, singles on June 19th, Aug 27th and 28th. Hilfield Park Res, one on June 5th. Rye Meads, singles on Aug 19th, 21st and Nov 8th. Stocker's Lake, one on Oct 10th.

Middx Broadwater, one on May 2nd. Forty Hall, singles on Feb 2nd and Dec 28th. Wood Green Res, singles on June 21st and Oct 15th.

Kent Sevenoaks Reserve one on Feb 15th.

0171 Ruddy Shelduck***Tadorna ferruginea***

Essex Cornmill Meads, singles on Apr 5th and from May 3rd to June 5th. King George V Res, one on May 4th. Nazeing, two flew W on July 18th. Wm Girling Res, four on Sept 2nd.

Herts Verulamium Lake, one on Aug 22nd.

Middx *Inner London*: St James's Park, several free-flying birds were present in the collection.

Surrey Queen Elizabeth II Res, a pair on Jan 11th and 15th. Walton Res, a pair on Aug 25th.

A single bird present throughout the year that commuted between Walthamstow Reservoirs and Tottenham Marsh was a hybrid and was often reported as a pure Ruddy Shelduck. Observers should check the head colour of Ruddy Shelduck to be sure of pure origins.

Cape Shelduck***Tadorna cana***

Essex Cornmill Meads, one on May 20th. Walthamstow Res, two on Mar 28th.

Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, two on Mar 12th. Staines Res, two on Aug 16th.

Surrey Claremont Lake, three on Jan 20th were possibly hybrids.

Adults seen at Walton Res were considered to be hybrids with Paradise Shelduck, which places some doubt on any records reported from that area.

Muscovy Duck***Cairina moschata***

Middx *Inner London*: Victoria Park, one on Sept 18th.
 Surrey Clapham, singles on Oct 12th and Nov 9th, an adult and juvenile on Sept 6th and three on Nov 29th and Dec 6th. Kew Gardens, one on May 31st. South Norwood Lake, one all year. Wandsworth Common, one on Oct 12th. *Inner London*: Battersea Park, one on Oct 21st.

0177 Wood Duck***Aix sponsa***

Essex Dagenham Chase, one on July 17th.
 Surrey Kew Gardens, a male on March 23rd.

Chiloe Wigeon***Anas sibilatrix***

Essex Connaught Water, one on Oct 27th. Walthamstow Res, one from Aug 15th to Nov 8th.
 Herts Cheshunt GP, two on Oct 12th.

0189 Pintail***Anas acuta***

Middx/Surrey *Inner London*: Albert Embankment, a pair on April 22nd and male on June 13th. Battersea Park, eight including four males on Oct 19th and nine on Oct 21st. Buckingham Palace, two on Apr 15th and one on May 1st. Chelsea Creek, four including two males, on Mar 23rd. Embankment Gardens, two on June 2nd. Lambeth Bridge, two flew up river on May 1st and on Aug 10th. St. James's Park, a number of young were raised from the pinioned/free-flying stock. Vauxhall Bridge, a pair on Mar 19th, seven on Nov 25th and two on 27th.

Yellow-billed Pintail***Anas georgica***

Essex Walthamstow Res, one on Nov 13th.
 Middx Brent Res, one on July 11th and 12th.

White-cheeked Pintail***Anas bahamensis***

Essex Harrow Lodge Park one on Dec 11th.
 Middx *Inner London*: St James's Park a number of birds in the collection are free-flying.

Cape Teal***Anas capensis***

Essex Dagenham Chase, singles on Aug 5th, 7th and 19th. Walthamstow Res, singles on Jan 2nd and 11th.

Red Shoveler***Anas platalea***

Middx Perry Oaks SF, one on July 11th. Staines Res, a male on July 16th, August 16th and from 18th to 25th. Stanwell Moor, one on Apr 23rd.

Australian Shoveler***Anas rhynchotis***

Essex Cornmill Meads, one on Apr 27th of the New Zealand race.

- Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha*
Essex Connaught Water, singles on Oct 3rd and Nov 11th.
- Marbled Teal** *Marmornetta angustirostris*
Herts Hilfield Park Res, a female on Apr 21st and 22nd.
Middx Perry Oaks SF, one on May 15th, 28th and June 7th (CL).
The Middlesex bird was accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee into Category D.
- Chestnut Teal** *Anas castanea*
Surrey Beddington SF, a female discontinuously from June 4th until 18th.
- 0192 Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*
Essex Connaught Water, one bird present all year.
- Pink-eared Duck** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*
Middx Staines Res, one on June 20th.
- 0202 Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*
Essex Fishers Green, one on Feb 1st (same bird as below).
Herts Cheshunt GP (North Met GP), male from 1997 until Feb 1st.
- New Zealand Scaup** *Aythya novaeseelandiae*
Essex Connaught Water, singles on Feb 14th and Oct 3rd.
Surrey Richmond Park, one on Feb 12th.
- 0267 Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*
Surrey Beddington SF, an immature male with jesses from Nov 13th to 30th.
- 0287 Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*
Herts Amwell GP, one with jesses on June 14th.
- 0309 Merlin** *Falco columbarius*
Essex Fairlop, one with jesses on Oct 7th.
- Chukar** *Alectoris chukar*
Essex Stapleford Tawney, one on Jan 22nd.
- Bobwhite Quail** *Colinus virginianus*
Surrey Riddlesdown, South Croydon, one on June 13th.
- Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*
Essex Collier Row, one on May 2nd. Walthamstow Res, singles on Aug 22nd and Sept 26th.

- Herts Colney Heath Lane, one on May 18th. Hilfield Park Res, one on May 26th. St Albans, one on July 3rd. Tyttenhanger GP one on Mat 20th and 23rd. Waltham Cross, one on two dates in late December.
- Middx Brent Res, one on July 19th. Bushy Park, one on May 22nd. Ravenscourt Park, one on Nov 18th. *Inner London*: Paddington Green, one on May 22nd.
- Bucks Black Park, one on Aug 2nd.
- Kent Greenwich Park singles on Sept 3rd, 30th and in early December. Petts Wood one on Aug 30th.
- Surrey Beddington SF one on Apr 9th. Kew Gardens, one on Mar 30th. Morden Hall Park, a singing male on May 16th, two on July 28th and Oct 21st. South Norwood Lake, a male on July 22nd, August 16th, several dates in September and October and Nov 15th.

Budgerigar***Melopsittacus undulatus***

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one on Oct 18th. Rainham Marsh, one on Oct 18th.
- Herts Garston, one on June 24th. St Albans, one on Sept 1st.
- Middx Brent Res, one on June 6th. *Inner London*: Paddington Green, one on Aug 4th.
- Kent Charlton, one on Nov 15th. Greenwich Park, one on Sept 21st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Aug 3rd. Morden Hall Park, one during July and August. *Inner London*: Ada Road, SE5, one on Aug 2nd.

Superb Parrot***Polytelis swainsonii***

- Surrey South Norwood CP one from Aug 22nd to 30th and again during September and October.

Monk Parakeet***Myiopsitta monachus***

- Herts Borehamwood, four on Apr 2nd.
- Surrey Barn Elms WWT, two from March to September and again during November and December. Lonsdale Road Res, a pair seen during January and February again on August 8th. Morden Hall Park, one flew west on Dec 11th. Richmond Park, a female on Jan 1st and possible another on Mar 29th.

0744 Eagle Owl***Bubo bubo***

- Surrey Park Farm, Chessington one with jesses was seen in late April.

Another possible bird was seen on a building ledge opposite Great Portland St. Tube on Dec 30th described as being "a large owl with obvious ear tufts".

Common Mynah***Acridotheres tristis***

- Middx Perry Oaks SF, one on Aug 13th in gardens by entrance.

White-throated Laughing Thrush***Garrulax albogularis***

- Middx *Inner London*: Inner Temple Gardens, one was present for about two weeks prior to Nov 11th.

Common Waxbill*Estrilda astrild*

Kent Chipstead Lake, one for a week sometime during September/October.

Orange-checked Waxbill*Estrilda melpoda*

Essex Barking Bay, a pair in the reeds on Oct 18th.

Black-headed Weaver*Ploceus melanocephalus*

Essex Dagenham Chase, an adult male on Aug 29th.

Appendix II: Hybrids

The following records relate to wild or feral hybrids.

Canada Goose x Greylag Goose

Essex Walthamstow Res, a single bird of each species bred together.

Middx *Inner London*: Westbourne Green, one on Nov 4th.

Surrey Barn Elms WWT, numerous records of one or two birds during the year.
Epsom Common, one on Sept 5th. Hersham GP, one on Dec 20th.

Barnacle Goose x Canada Goose

Essex Walthamstow Res, one on Nov 13th.

***Aythya* hybrids**

Essex King George V Res, a female Tufted Duck x Pochard on Dec 30th.
Walthamstow Res, a female (probably Scaup x Tufted Duck) from Dec 13th into 1999.

Herts Aldenham Res, a drake Pochard x Red-crested Pochard present all year.
Tyttenhanger GP, a drake Ferruginous Duck x Tufted Duck on Feb 20th.

Bucks Wraysbury GP, a male 'Lesser Scaup-type' (Pochard x Tufted Duck) on Jan 6th.

Kent Ruxley GP, a Tufted Duck x Pochard on Oct 25th.

1997 Additional record

Surrey *Inner London*: Surrey Docks, a male (probably a Pochard x Tufted Duck) on Jan 11th.

Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull

Essex Barking Bay, an adult on Sept 19th, Nov 28th and Dec 12th. Beckton, at least four from Mar 15th to Sept 5th. Rainham Marsh, at least two adults on Jan 24th, singles on Aug 22nd, Sept 13th, Nov 20th and 30th.

Appendix III: Unsubstantiated records

The following species were reported in the London Area during 1998, but no descriptions were received by the recorders

- 0004 Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*
Essex Wm Girling Res, one on Jan 17th was a different individual to the long staying bird.
- Diver sp** *Gavia sp*
Essex Walthamstow Res, one flew over on Jan 18th was considered to be a Black-throated by the observer.
- 0370 Quail** *Cortunix coturnix*
Essex Dagenham Chase, one from May 28th to 30th.
- 0568 Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*
Bucks Queen Mother Res, a juvenile on Aug 27th.
- 0589 Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*
Essex Dagenham Chase, an adult on Nov 21st. Rainham Marsh, a first-winter bird on Feb 21st, a second-winter bird on Mar 9th.
- 0598 Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides*
Essex Rainham Marsh, an adult on Feb 9th. Wanstead Park, a second-winter on Jan 18th
- 0599 Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*
Essex Ongar Landfill, an adult on Jan 4th, a first-winter on Oct 13th.
Middx Staines Res, a second-winter on Feb 8th.
Bucks Queen Mother Res, a second-winter on Mar 24th.
- 0634 Guillemot** *Uria aalge*
Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Jan 26th.
- 1508 Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*
Essex Claybury, a male on May 6th.
- 1311.01 Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus c. tristis*
Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Dec. 19th
Surrey Beddington SF, one was trapped and ringed on Dec 20th.
- 1662 Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*
Essex Rainham Marsh, at least two on Jan 1st.
- 1847 Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*
Surrey Barn Elms WWT, two on Oct 18th.

First and Last Dates of Regular Migrants – 1998

<i>Summer Migrants</i>	<i>Arrival</i>		<i>Departure</i>	
Garganey	Mar 10	Amwell GP	Oct 17	Amwell GP
Marsh Harrier	Apr 22	Beddington SF	Oct 7	Regents Park
Osprey	Apr 22	Regents Park	Oct 7	Nore Hill, Chelsham
Hobby	Apr 16	Beddington SF	Oct 11	Thorpe Water Park
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 13	Rainham Marsh	Sept 27	Cornmill Meads
Whimbrel	Mar 9	Silvertown	Aug 20	Staines Res
Sandwich Tern	Mar 21	Staines Res	Oct 10	Barking Bay
Common Tern	Apr 2	Island Barn Res	Oct 11	Barn Elms WWT
Arctic Tern	Apr 24	Brent Res	Oct 3	Barking Bay
Black Tern	Apr 22	Broadwater	Sept 17	Queen Mary Res
Turtle Dove	Apr 21	Brent Res	Oct 3	Vicarage Farm, Enfield
Cuckoo	Apr 13	Weald Park	Oct 3	Long Reach SF
Swift	Apr 16	Walton Res	Sept 16	Queen Mary Res
Sand Martin	Mar 07	Queen Mother Res	Oct 9	Staines Res
Swallow	Mar 27	Queen Mother Res	Nov 1	Barn Elms WWT
House Martin	Apr 5	Walton-on-Thames	Nov 20	Rainham Marsh
Tree Pipit	Mar 31	Dagenham Chase	Oct 18	Beddington SF
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 30	Queen Mother Res	Oct 14	Barn Elms WWT
Nightingale	Apr 12	Wraysbury GP	Jul 10	Shortwood Common
Redstart	Apr 8	Hornchurch CP	Oct 30	Hornchurch
Whinchat	Apr 13	Beddington SF	Dec 20	Staines Res
Wheatear	Mar 4	Hounslow Heath	Nov 4	Banbury Res
Ring Ouzel	Apr 4	Beddington SF	Oct 18	Cornmill Meads/Hainault
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 7	Rainham Marsh	Sept 24	Vicarage Farm, Enfield
Sedge Warbler	Mar 31	Amwell GP	Oct 11	Hillfield Park Res
Reed Warbler	Apr 8	Middlesex Filter Beds	Oct 16	Barn Elms WWT
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 23	Dulwich	Oct 11	Vicarage Farm, Enfield
Whitethroat	Apr 6	Bedfont Lakes CP	Nov 21	Hornchurch CP
Garden Warbler	Apr 11	Wimbledon Common	Nov 2	Dagenham Chase
Wood Warbler	Apr 23	Bedfont Lakes CP	Sept 19	Rainham Marsh
Willow Warbler	Mar 21	Greenwich Park	Oct 11	Bedfont Lakes CP
Spotted Flycatcher	May 2	Sevenoaks Reserve	Oct 20	Bushy Park
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 21	Lonsdale Road Res	Oct 7	Beddington SF
<i>Winter Migrants</i>		<i>Departure</i>		<i>Arrival</i>
Bittern	Feb 15	Cheshunt GP	Aug 24	Amwell GP
Brent Goose	Mar 1	Sevenoaks Reserve	Oct 3	Barking Bay/Marsh
Smew	Mar 30	Tilehouse North Lake	Nov 22	Walthamstow Res
Goosander	May 9	Wraysbury GP	Nov 1	Walton Res
Jack Snipe	Apr 19	Holmethorpe SP	Oct 4	Barn Elms WWT
Water Pipit	Apr 13	Cornmill Meads	Oct 1	Beddington SF
Fieldfare	May 1	Beckenham Place Park	Sept 28	Nore Hill, Chelsham
Redwing	May 2	Wraysbury GP	Sept 27	Coppetts Wood
Brambling	May 3	Havering CP	Oct 3	Hampstead Heath

Ringling Report for 1998

G.S.Elton

London Area ringling totals submitted for 1998 by ringling groups and individual ringlers totaled 13,432 birds, a similar figure to 1997. This comprised 11,534 full grown birds of 87 species and 1898 nestlings of 42 species. Blue Tit (2,343) were the most ringed species followed by Great Tit (1,294), Blackcap (1,188) and Chiffchaff (803).

The mild winter once again helped survival rates of many of our resident species and this, coupled with an equally mild March and April, led to early breeding success. Unfortunately, the weather in the remainder of the breeding season was generally unsettled with particularly heavy downpours during late May and June.

Species such as Blackcap and Chiffchaff did particularly well for a second consecutive year arriving earlier than many other migrants meant that they were able to take advantage of early suitable breeding conditions. The number of Garden Warblers ringed in the area increased substantially, although nationally numbers ringed remained low. Numbers ringed of several species were notably down on the previous year. The number of Bullfinches was halved, Reed Buntings fell by 30% and Whitethroat by 20%, reflecting national concern for these species. Only one Willow Tit was ringed this year, with no Marsh Tits ringed. Numbers of Siskin ringed were almost double the previous years total due to large numbers visiting ringers' gardens during the later part of the winter.

More unusual and noteworthy species ringed during the year included: Shag, Water Rail (2), Dunlin (3), Tawny Owl (2), Skylark (8), Water Pipit, Nightingale (2), Redstart, Stonechat, Wheatear, Grasshopper Warbler (5), Cetti's Warbler, Firecrest, Pied Flycatcher and Brambling.

The number of pulli ringed this year was slightly down on the previous year and included Little Ringed Plover (9), Common Tern (77), Stock Dove (2), Turtle Dove (4), Cuckoo (3) and Tree Sparrow (296).

A number of interesting recoveries were reported during the year and a selection of these are listed below. (Sites within the London Area are attributed to their appropriate Watsonian vice-county, as used in the rest of the *London Bird Report*; with the present administrative area in parentheses. This is to prevent confusion since many counties, where the initial ringling recovery or control may have taken place, use current administrative boundaries).

Key to symbols used:

- V Controlled (caught or trapped, released with ring)
- VV Field or sight record
- + Shot or killed by man
- X Found dead

Cormorant

5123156 (A3 Blue)	VV	19.04.97 28.11.98	Besthorpe, Notts Wood Green Res Filter Beds, Middx (Greater London), 176km
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Canada Goose

5120733	X	03.07.83 01.09.97	Osterley, Middx (Greater London) Dinton Pastures, Hurst, Reading, 37km
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Tufted Duck

FR25793	X	01.01.83 15.07.98	Rye Meads, Herts Aylsham, 141km
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Very much an old bird, with the current BTO longevity record standing at 17 years and 9 months.

Ringed Plover

NV06963	X	24.05.97 27.10.97	Wraysbury G.P(Bucks), Berkshire Ile Madame, Port Des Barques, Charante-Maritime, France, 614km
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Many British-bred Ringed Plovers choose to remain in Britain and spend the winter either at coastal locations or on estuaries. Some such as this bird move further south to spend the winter on the continent.

Black-tailed Godwit

		02.08.96	Terrington, Norfolk
	VV	00.08.98	Maldon, Blackwater Estuary, Essex
	VV	01.02.98	Grays, Essex

Colour-ringed as part of a study into the distribution of Icelandic breeding birds during the winter, however there is no mention of the bird being actually seen in Iceland!

Woodcock

ES00355		03.02.96	Rye Meads, Herts
	+	01.11.98	Herning, Jylland, Denmark, 760km

Birds wintering in this country are believed to originate primarily from Scandinavia, which is borne out by this recovery.

Black-headed Gull

ST116.038		25.06.94	Trevola, Finland
	VV	15.12.98	Broomfield Park, 2130km

Furthest movement received this year.

5207815		30.06.79	Wangerooge, Germany
	VV	20.11.98	Wood Green Res Filter Beds, Middx, 597km

A good age for this species at 19 years and 5 months old.

In addition to the above a good selection of other movements were received, the majority of which were read in the field. They included birds originally ringed in the following countries; Finland(11), Denmark(4), Germany(2), Poland(3), Estonia(3), Lithuania(2), Sweden(2), Belgium(1), Latvia (1). Details read in the field were also received of twenty seven British ringed birds. The most interesting follow;

EH42879	03.03.81	St James's Park, Middx
	05.06.90	Szczecin Poland

This bird was treated by a vet in Poland for an injured wing in 1990.

ER73966	13.12.95	Kensington Gardens, Middx
	V 00.06.96	Copenhagen (Darvic 7Y7 added)
	V 09.12.97	London
	V 23.03.98	Copenhagen
	V 11.11.98	London

What a difference a Darvic makes!

EN10940	26.02.85	Kensington Gardens, Middx
	V 12.03.98	Prague, Czech Republic (EX50562 added)

Details were also received of a large number of Foreign and British ringed Black-headed Gulls that have returned to the London Area regularly, some for up to eight subsequent winters.

Common Tern

XS97364	21.06.86	Amwell GP, Herts
	X 14.06.98	nr Theale, Berks, 82km

Rock Pipit

VV	01.02.98	Goteburg, Sweden
		Swanscombe Marsh, Kent

This bird was colour ringed with a white ring. Presumably of the Scandinavian race, which are known to winter in Britain, although are generally noted in our area during the spring.

Grey Wagtail

H018952	04.07.92	Rye Meads, Herts
	X 21.01.98	Amwell GP, Herts

Sedge Warbler

N127895	05.08.98	Icklesham, Sussex
	R 08.05.98	Hilfield Park Reservoir Elstree, Herts, 109km

An unusual northerly autumn movement.

Total of birds ringed in the London area during 1998

	Adult	Pulli	Total
Shag	1	0	1
Grey Heron	1	14	15
Mute Swan	36	2	38
Greylag Goose	93	0	93
Canada Goose	91	14	105
Wigeon	2	1	3
Gadwall	22	6	28
Teal	7	0	7
Mallard	53	22	75
Shoveler	2	4	6
Pochard	1	0	1
Tufted Duck	27	20	47
Sparrowhawk	10	4	14
Kestrel	2	14	16
Water Rail	2	0	2
Moorhen	57	3	60
Coot	34	1	35
Little Ringed Plover	3	9	12
Lapwing	1	6	7
Dunlin	3	0	3
Redshank	0	1	1
Green Sandpiper	2	0	2
Common Sandpiper	4	0	4
Black-Headed Gull	28	0	28
Common Tern	0	77	77
Woodpigeon	11	3	14
Stock Dove	0	2	2
Collared Dove	5	4	9
Turtle Dove	0	4	4
Cuckoo	1	3	4
Tawny Owl	2	0	2
Kingfisher	75	0	75
Swift	72	0	72
Green Woodpecker	29	0	29
G S Woodpecker	25	0	25
Skylark	8	0	8
Sand Martin	3	0	3
Swallow	0	16	16
House Martin	25	0	25
Meadow Pipit	16	0	16
Water Pipit	1	0	1
Grey Wagtail	11	4	15
Pied Wagtail	4	0	4

Wren	399	0	399
Dunnock	456	0	456
Robin	454	4	458
Nightingale	2	0	2
Redstart	1	0	1
Stonechat	1	0	1
Wheatear	1	0	1
Blackbird	392	7	399
Fieldfare	8	0	8
Song Thrush	146	5	151
Redwing	41	0	41
Mistle Thrush	5	0	5
Grasshopper Warbler	5	0	5
Cetti's Warbler	1	0	1
Sedge Warbler	387	70	457
Reed Warbler	543	57	600
Lesser Whitethroat	160	0	160
Whitethroat	420	3	423
Garden Warbler	262	3	265
Blackcap	1178	10	1188
Chiffchaff	797	6	803
Willow Warbler	440	2	442
Goldcrest	86	0	86
Firecrest	1	0	1
Pied Flycatcher	1	0	1
Spotted Flycatcher	5	0	5
Willow Tit	1	0	1
Long-tailed Tit	430	4	434
Blue Tit	1673	670	2343
Great Tit	812	482	1294
Coal Tit	35	0	35
Nuthatch	7	0	7
Treecreeper	26	0	26
Jay	30	6	36
Magpie	20	0	20
Carrion Crow	2	1	3
House Sparrow	60	0	60
Tree Sparrow	1	296	297
Starling	78	0	78
Chaffinch	170	2	172
Brambling	1	0	1
Siskin	602	0	602
Greenfinch	215	12	227
Goldfinch	131	0	131
Linnet	38	0	38
Bullfinch	82	0	82
Redpoll	33	0	33

Yellowhammer	42	0	42
Reed Bunting	83	24	107
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Total	11,534	1,898	13,432

List of Contributors

The compiler gratefully acknowledges the valuable information received from the following: D.Baggott, S.Conor, M.Cook, C.W.Deer (Rye Meads Ringing Group), P.Delaloye (Maple Cross Ringing Group), C.J.Forss (Hersham Ringing Group), J.Gent, A.Gibson, D.Harris, K.Herber (Runnymede Ringing Group), P.Jones (Dartford Ringing Group), M.Netherwood, M.Reed, R.F.Sanderson, K.Seaman, B.Trevis and M.Waller.

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The Breeding Bird Survey in London, 1998

D.A. Coleman

The Breeding Bird Survey was launched by the BTO, JNCC and RSPB in 1994 to provide a measure of the population changes of our common and widespread birds. One kilometre squares are chosen at random by BBS organisers at the BTO. Each square is allocated to a volunteer who makes two early morning transect walks between April and June separated by at least four weeks. The survey is repeated each year following the same route. By comparing counts of birds made on the same square in successive years, it is possible to measure population changes.

This note covers the BTO's London region, which corresponds to the 15 ten kilometre squares overlapping the London boroughs. In 1998, 60 squares were surveyed and 47 of them had been surveyed in 1997. There are 24 squares that have been surveyed every year since the survey began in 1994. A total of 95 species have been recorded with five new species in 1998: Barnacle Goose, Teal, Common Sandpiper, Black Redstart and Fieldfare.

The population changes of some of London's birds are shown in Table 1 with the change found nationally from the BBS. The table is limited to species recorded in at least ten 'paired' squares (ie squares surveyed in both years) where the species was recorded in one or both years. Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull and Pied Wagtail appear in the table this year, while Sparrowhawk drops out. For each square, the highest count (in a few cases the only count) for each year has been used as the best estimate of abundance.

Of 16 species recorded from more than 30 paired squares, seven showed increases and nine showed decreases. Statistically significant increases occurred for Blue Tit and Carrion Crow and significant decreases for Feral Rock Dove, Starling and House Sparrow. These last three species are also the most abundant in London. Both Feral Rock Dove and Starling showed increases last year, so there is no clear trend. However, House Sparrow has shown a decrease in the last three years (there was no change in 1994/95), although the decline this year was the first to be significant. Using every survey, the mean number of House Sparrows counted on a visit has declined from 58 in 1994 to 37 in 1998 (a decline of 36%). Last year's report showed that the stronghold for House Sparrow was in the NE of London with 46% of the population, so a comparison of the decline in the NE with the rest of London is of interest. The decline between 1994 and 1998 in the NE (37%) is less than the rest of London (45%). Looking at these declines by year, the percentage decline for each pair of years in the NE is +5, -1, -21 and -24 while the decline in the rest of London is -9, -13, -26 and -6 (data restricted to 24 squares where a survey has been completed in every year). The decline in the NE started later but now seems to be catching up.

Skylark, Song Thrush and Linnet are the most numerous birds in London on the red list of Birds of Conservation Concern and are often being considered as target species in Biodiversity Action Plans for London boroughs. Table 2 gives three measures of how they are faring: the percentage of squares where they have been recorded; the mean number of birds counted on a visit in squares where they have been recorded; and the percentage change between years

Table 1

Population changes in numbers of birds between 1997 and 1998 in the BTO's London region compared with the United Kingdom. The figures in bold type are statistically significant at the 5% level

	No of birds counted		No of paired squares	Percentage change	
	1997	1998		London	UK
Cormorant	20	23	15	15	19
Grey Heron	23	24	23	4	-8
Canada Goose	78	62	22	-21	-5
Mallard	158	171	29	8	2
Kestrel	13	10	15	-23	1
Moorhen	15	24	16	62	9
Lesser Black-backed Gull	87	35	11	-60	-8
Herring Gull	39	35	16	-10	3
Feral Rock Dove	2169	1805	45	-17	17
Woodpigeon	942	1115	47	18	6
Collared Dove	229	213	33	-7	6
Swift	458	504	40	10	9
Green Woodpecker	20	33	17	65	19
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	24	31	22	29	10
Skylark	33	35	14	6	1
Swallow	60	33	18	-45	-7
House Martin	88	64	18	-27	-7
Pied Wagtail	11	14	14	27	3
Wren	217	233	42	7	26
Dunnock	135	109	41	-19	8
Robin	246	244	43	-1	17
Blackbird	758	744	47	-2	9
Song Thrush	84	81	33	-4	18
Mistle Thrush	42	51	27	21	10
Whitethroat	40	34	19	-15	-7
Blackcap	46	47	19	2	18
Chiffchaff	29	35	20	21	14
Willow Warbler	29	17	16	-41	9
Long-tailed Tit	37	26	19	-30	-13
Blue Tit	400	486	45	22	-11
Great Tit	145	175	39	21	2
Jay	51	35	28	-31	-1
Magpie	344	361	46	5	-3
Carrion Crow	531	691	47	30	-1
Starling	3122	2432	47	-22	-12
House Sparrow	2413	1952	46	-19	-4
Chaffinch	76	84	21	11	5
Greenfinch	143	120	34	-16	-4
Goldfinch	96	50	25	-48	-10
Linnet	44	37	15	-16	-9

Table 2

Measures of change for the most numerous red list Birds of Conservation Concern found in London squares

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Number of surveys	35	38	44	47	60
Skylark					
% of squares recorded	26	21	23	23	22
Mean count on survey in squares where it was recorded	5.6	3.9	2.8	2.2	2.1
% change between years in paired squares		7	-11	-11	6
Song Thrush					
% of squares recorded	68	71	73	60	60
Mean count on survey in squares where it was recorded	2.6	2.9	2.3	2.1	2.0
% change between years in paired squares		48	-30	-13	-4
Linnet					
% of squares recorded	26	16	18	21	22
Mean count on survey in squares where it was recorded	3.9	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.7
% change between years in paired squares		-58	-11	57	-16

(from Table 1). In the table, it can be seen that these measures do not always show a change in the same direction, which is a consequence of the small numbers, so any changes must be treated with caution. Only Song Thrush seems to be becoming less widespread but all three species may be showing declines in abundance.

The BBS gives all birdwatchers a chance to take part in important survey work. If you have a few hours to spare each year and wish to take part in the BBS, please contact me.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to observers who have completed a BBS. The value of a regional analysis is beginning to be seen but without your support, no analysis would be possible. Thanks again.

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Yearlisting in the London Area

S. Connor

The Task

When the London Bird Report for 1985 was published, I read an article by Rupert Hastings entitled '200 species in a year' (Hastings, 1986), in which Rupert details how he had achieved that impressive total during one calendar year's birding in the London Area.

At that time I had only been birding for about three years, but after a few more years of regular local birding, I decided to see if I could also accumulate a good London Year List. During my attempt, in 1990, I saw a wealth of good birds, including the famous Naumann's Thrush, as well as Red-footed Falcon, Lesser Yellowlegs, Tawny Pipit, White-winged Black Tern and Yellow-browed Warbler to name but a few, and finished the year on 193, a pleasing total.

During that attempt I had found myself doing a lot more birding than usual, and visiting some sites for the first time, and others that I had only visited infrequently. These included, most notably, Thames-side sites in the east, some of which are very good spots deserving of more coverage, such as the foreshore at Grays. Throughout that year I gained real knowledge of the London Area and where best to go to look for certain species.

Choosing when to attempt a year list is always a hit and miss affair, as of course, one can never predict how good or bad the year ahead will be for birds. The London Bird Reports throughout this decade show an annual total in excess of 220 species for the area, but for one person to try to see most of them is a different matter. In any one year, a good number of the species in the total are seen flying over, or along the River Thames, or are brief stayers. Seabirds are often found in an exhausted state and have to be taken into care before being released on the coast, and some birds are picked up dead. Consequently many of each year's birds are unavailable to a large audience.

The use by many modern day birders of mobile phones and rare bird pagers makes the compiling of a year-list that much easier, and the fact that they were not in use when the late Rupert Hastings reached his 200 in 1985 made his achievement then all the more remarkable. Nevertheless, however much mobile communications may help the list along, anyone who has ever made a serious attempt at a year-list of any sort will testify that it is very hard work, and it wasn't until 1998 that I felt like having another go at it.

A number of species have become a lot less regular in recent years, such as Hen Harrier, Twite, Hawfinch, Nightjar, Bearded Tit and Willow Tit, and to a lesser extent, Wood Warbler, Marsh Tit, Pintail, Tree Sparrow, Corn Bunting, both partridges, Short-eared Owl, Spotted Flycatcher and Tree Pipit. Despite this, most of these can still be seen with a bit of luck and determination. Conversely, some have become more regular; Peregrine, Buzzard, Little Egret, Bittern, Mediterranean Gull and Woodlark are all much more frequently seen nowadays than they were, say, ten years ago.

All of the species mentioned above occurred in London in 1998, and it was one of the best ever years in terms of total species seen. So, a great year to go for a year-list, but how did I do in trying to catch up with them all? The following passages catalogue my best efforts throughout the year.

Monthly diary

JANUARY: Being in Cornwall on New Year's Day wasn't a good start, but the first bird that I did get on my return to London was a marvellous one, on 2nd, when a phone call as soon as I got home from work had me hurrying to Walthamstow Res in time to watch a **Pomarine Skua** at close range, in rarely seen first-winter plumage, for 20 minutes before it flew off southeast, and this also gave me the chance to get the small group of **Eiders** and a female **Red-breasted Merganser** which were remaining here from 1997, and also **Ruddy Duck**. On 3rd, on just my second visit of the year to the Nazeing GP gull roost, I got one of my wanted species, **Glaucous Gull**, a bird in third-winter plumage, which had been around the Lee Valley since late December. On 4th, in atrocious weather, an early morning arrival at Tooting Bec Common for the returning and obliging **Pied-billed Grebe** was followed by a drive across to east London to the Royal Victoria Dock for the **Red-throated Diver**, and also a pair of adult **Peregrines** perched on the old derelict Spillers Foods building alongside the dock. On 6th, following another phone call, I was off to King George V Res to see a newly arrived **Great Northern Diver**, and on visiting the adjacent Wm Girling Res, I found a surprise **Black-necked Grebe**, a species which had been absent from this regular wintering site before (and after) this date. On 8th, I made a short trip to Great Amwell to see the flock of several hundred **Golden Plovers**, and then to nearby Amwell GP where I got a **Jack Snipe**. The 11th was Lee Valley Bird Race day, and it provided a chance to mop up on a few of the more regular species which I had not yet had the opportunity to go for, starting during the night with **Little Owl** at Sewardstone, and a **Tawny Owl** at Nightingale Wood, Cheshunt GP. A visit to Amwell GP at first light was good, getting an unseasonal drake **Garganey**, two **Egyptian Geese**, **Marsh Tit** and **Coal Tit** among other more common species. The wintering **Red-necked Grebe** was still on King George V Res, and other less scarce species seen during the day included **Stonechat** and **Red-legged Partridge** at Fishers Green, **Chiffchaff** and **Green Sandpiper** at Rye Meads and **Smew** at Paynes Lane GP. On 14th, a late afternoon phone call with news of a **Black-throated Diver** on King George V Res got me onto the last of the three divers species - already! On 17th, I went to Broadwater, to see the regular and incredibly site-faithful wintering female **Long-tailed Duck**, which I first went there to see six years ago. On 19th, more time spent sifting through the Nazeing GP gull roost resulted in the addition of an adult **Mediterranean Gull** and an oiled first-winter **Kittiwake** to the list, and on the next evening, 20th, in the same roost, I found an adult **Iceland Gull**. So one of my favourite birding pastimes, gull roost watching, at one of my favourite sites, had got me all of the likely gull species in the first three weeks of the year! The **Water Pipits** were as obliging as ever on the foreshore of the Thames at Rainham Marsh on 23rd, with four or five present.

FEBRUARY: On 1st a trip to the Thames, where a good start was made at Grays, seeing five of the expected **Turnstones**, as well as nine **Grey Plovers**, a **Curlew** and a **Rock Pipit**, but much more unexpected was a huge flock of 144 **Black-tailed Godwits** feeding on the foreshore, a lovely sight. **Nuthatch** was new for the list in Trent Park on 12th, and on 14th, a visit to the finch roost in Broxbourne Woods got me a **Hawfinch**, showing well, and a small flock of **Bramblings**. At Rainham Marsh on 24th, I got two **Oystercatchers** on their preferred habitat of the River Thames foreshore. After a **Crossbill** at the edge of Amwell GP in January which may have been just outside the London Area boundary, a small group of **Crossbills** at Bedmond on 25th were certainly inside, albeit not by much. Also that day I got onto a female **Red-crested Pochard** at Shepperton GP on my second attempt, at a site where, according to my pager, everyone else had been seeing a male.

MARCH: The next good bird to see was on 13th, when I went across London to the huge Wimbledon Common to look for a tiny **Firecrest**, two of which had been seen there the previous day. I didn't fancy my chances much, but thanks to the excellent directions which were given I was lucky, getting a singing bird briefly first, and then good close views of another or the same nearby a little later. The next day, 14th, I went again to Rainham Marsh, this time to look for four **Bearded Tits** which had been seen there the day before. The directions were not nearly as good as for the Firecrest on Wimbledon Common, but after four hours of persistent searching I had good views of three which showed at very close range; long gone are the days when flocks of 40 or more could be seen here. A pair of **Common Scoters** were easily seen on King George V Res on 16th, and on 21st, a chance find of one of my keenly needed and declining species, a pair of **Corn Buntings** at Noke Farm, Chiswell Green. I was very pleased to get onto the adult **Ring-billed Gull** at my third attempt, showing well on the Thames at Greenwich Reach, after I turned up 'on spec' early on 22nd, as this bird, although present for some months, had been very erratic in its appearances and seen by very few people. A pair of **Mandarins** showed at Connaught Water later the same day. Two **Ruff** at Cornmill Meads on 23rd were the first of the year, and a **Blackcap** was heard at Cheshunt GP on 29th. After having already spent many hours looking for **Buzzard** at various sites, I was glad to get a chance one flying west over Amwell GP on 31st, and with a **Willow Warbler** also at that site, and **Sand Martin** and **Wheatear** on the Lee Valley reservoirs the same day, spring passage had begun.

APRIL: In an excellent start to the month, I easily got onto a singing **Woodlark** at a regular breeding site, which showed very well, and not so easily onto a singing **Cetti's Warbler** at Harefield GP, which didn't. They were both on 1st. After returning from a holiday I found that summer migrants were still thin on the ground, but I soon started catching up with them. On 21st, **Sedge Warbler** and **Common Tern** were at Cheshunt GP in the morning, and a very attractive but shy male **Ring Ouzel** was at Dartford Marsh in the afternoon, where I also saw my first **Swallow**, **Cuckoo** and **Common Sandpipers** of the year. The next day, 22nd, I went to locate **Black Redstart** at Brimsdown, and got a male, again entering the same factory roof hole as in previous years, and at Cornmill Meads,

two **Little Ringed Plovers**. A surprise for this time of the year came on 23rd, with news of two immature **Shags** at Smallford GP, the first of this species available in London this year, which I eagerly went to see. From here I got precise information on the whereabouts of a pair of **Grey Partridges**, at Coursers Lane Fields. I was not expecting to see them, as it was wet and mid-afternoon, but my success was pleasing, as this species is difficult and declining in London these days. In fact, these were just two of an encouraging number of both species of partridge that I saw during the year. Later that afternoon many **Swifts** and **House Martins** were brought down by poor weather at Fishers Green. A **Lesser Whitethroat** was singing at Connaught Water on 24th, and on 25th, a trip to the Thames proved worthwhile with a **Whimbrel** flying upriver past Grays, and a **Reed Warbler**, **Whinchat** and many **Whitethroats** at West Thurrock. **Nightingales** were very vociferous at Fishers Green on 28th, and on 29th **Garden Warbler** and **Yellow Wagtail** were added at Sewardstone Marsh and Cornmill Meads respectively.

MAY: As last month, an excellent start was made on 1st with the superb find of a **Stone Curlew** at the private Essex Filter Beds in the Lee Valley, which showed continuously tucked down amongst grass and tree cuttings during the afternoon. After that I made a visit to King George V Res in the last hour and a half of daylight, and was greeted by an impressive flock of 80 **Arctic Terns** and three **Little Gulls**. On 2nd a **Hobby** flew through Paynes Lane GP at Nazeing, and on 3rd my first **Greenshank** of the year was among other birds on the foreshore at Grays. A **Turtle Dove** was at Rye Meads the next morning, 4th, and on 5th, a pair of **Tree Pipits** had already set up territory at Long Running, Epping Forest. An arduous drive to the far side of London in mid-afternoon on a Friday was rewarded by a summer plumaged **Temminck's Stint** at Kempton Park Res on 8th, and later the same day, 11 **Ring-necked Parakeets** flew over Walton Res going to roost. A **Little Egret** looked good accompanying the Grey Herons on the flood meadow at Swanscombe Marsh on 10th, and on 11th, a **Wood Sandpiper** was newly arrived at Cornmill Meads. On 14th, one **Woodcock** was roding at Long Running, Epping Forest, then on 15th, a late afternoon visit to an Essex site was necessary to get a very early **Marsh Warbler**, which was singing constantly, but not showing nearly as often, and to coincide with a **Long-eared Owl** at a nearby site which was coming out before dusk each night, presumably having young to feed. The next morning, 16th, a ridiculously early start was the only way to get a **Grasshopper Warbler** which had set up home at Fishers Green, but had now stopped singing regularly. It was reeling strongly at 4.15am, but had stopped completely by 5 o'clock. The same day, in the afternoon, a welcome **Sanderling** was found at Amwell GP, and at around dusk, a visit to a private Essex site gave me the lovely sight of two **Barn Owls** flying around, giving good views before and after dark at this well lit spot. The addition of these two owl species in the month of May was most unexpected. After a holiday abroad, my first good bird was an excellent one; on 28th, a first-summer male **Black-winged Stilt** was at a private site, Park Street GP. Although rather elusive during much of the day, it showed well eventually. The next day, 29th, a long wait was required to hear a **Quail**, which sang only occasionally at Dagenham Chase, and also showed very briefly in flight. A couple of much needed breeding species

were picked up on 31st, to end an excellent month. Firstly, an elusive **Spotted Flycatcher** eventually showed at Weald Park, and later a pair of **Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers** were watched attending a nest at Tottenham Cemetery.

JUNE: As might be expected, new species to add to the list were in short supply during midsummer, but it was very pleasing for me to find a pair of **Nightjars** at a traditional site whilst searching around the Surrey heaths in mid-month. On 19th a pair showed very well from 9.55pm, particularly the male, churring and preening whilst perched in a bare tree just 15 yards from me. The next day, 20th, a phone call sent me to Rainham Marsh to see a near summer plumaged **Spotted Redshank** consorting with the many Redshanks on the ranges pools. So by halfway through the year I was doing well, my total was over 170. However, I was still missing some species which I would like to have seen by this stage, and the autumn passage needed to be a good one.

JULY: As last month, just two species were added, both sea-going birds. Firstly, a drake **Scaup** on Wm Girling Res on 24th which was present for just a few hours. This was a species which had been missing in the first winter period, although they can often turn up in London during summer. Better still was a **Manx Shearwater** which appeared on Walton Res on 30th, during a period of heavy Manx passage on the South Coast.

AUGUST: The first new bird this month came on 11th, when a message left at my house sent me off on a ten minute walk as soon as I arrived home from work, to see an unusually co-operative and tame **Pied Flycatcher** on Rammey Marsh, which had once fed at the finder's feet! On 19th, I went to a site which I rarely visit, Queen Elizabeth II Res, to see an **Arctic Skua**. A juvenile, it showed very well both chasing Common Terns and resting on the water. The 26th was my most pleasing day of the year, when I visited Rainham Marsh, and, whilst looking at the pools on the firing ranges, found an adult **Lesser Yellowlegs** feeding and looking settled. After phoning the news out and waiting for birders to arrive, a swarm of small waders landed on the pools, probably pushed off the Thames by the high tide, and they included a juvenile **Little Stint**. The River Thames came up trumps again on 30th, when I dashed to see a smart juvenile **Sabine's Gull**, which was to linger for three weeks in the vicinity of Barking Bay outfall. Then in the afternoon I made a visit to Staines Res, surprisingly my first of the year, to get a juvenile **Knot**.

SEPTEMBER: Vicarage Farm in Enfield has been London's most reliable **Redstart** site for some years, so my visit there on 1st was to try for that species. As soon as I arrived, one began calling, and with a little patience it soon showed. On 4th, I again made the dreaded (for me) journey to Beddington SF to try once more for the **Tree Sparrows**, and armed with new information, I got the long overdue species onto the list this time, seeing a small flock of ten feeding in fathen. On 5th a London-wide bird count had been organised. I had just arrived in from work when I received a call telling me of a **Wood Warbler** at Weald Park. I had thought that time had just about run out for this species, and that I was going to miss it for the year, so this news had me at the site in a hurry, with the

bird showing well resting high in a chestnut tree in the sunshine. Whilst there, I got news of two **Curlew Sandpipers** at Dagenham Chase, which had gone by the time I got there. I thought Rainham Marsh would be worth a look, and on arrival I saw five Curlew Sandpipers there. Then followed a surprising lack of new species to add during this peak passage time, but more birding at Rainham Marsh again on 21st, and a much wanted **Sandwich Tern** flew upriver at 6.50pm. It's a good job that this species calls so frequently!

OCTOBER: An **Avocet** floating on the south basin of Staines Res on 4th was welcome, after I had missed one on the Thames the day before, and on the adjacent King George VI Res, a very attractive juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** showed well, also having eluded me the previous day. Unusually, there had been no **Slavonian Grebes** in the early part of the year, but one at Walthamstow Res that afternoon completed my grebe list (of six!) to round off a good three tick day. My luckiest tick of the year came on 6th, when, at Rainham Marsh again, I caught sight of four **Brent Geese** flying high downriver whilst watching a Woodpigeon flying across. Later, just before dusk, a newly found **Short-eared Owl** on Chingford Plain was one of the forerunners of an influx of this species, numbers of which had been down in recent years. An excellent find on 9th was that of a **Spotted Crake** at Cornmill Meads which showed well all day, and was the first live one in the Lee Valley for 15 years. I was back at Rainham Marsh on 18th, looking again for the ever elusive Marsh Harriers, when I found a cracking immature **Hen Harrier** which was to stay for some weeks. Thames-side had been lacking in long stays from this species recently. There had been a flock of **Pintails** frequenting the mid-Thames region for some time, and I caught up with nine at Battersea Park on 21st. Just in case these might be thought to be of suspect origin, perhaps from St. James's Park (see LBR 61:46), I saw others at Wm Girling Res and Rainham Marsh in the following two months. A nice male **Snow Bunting** on King George V Res on 22nd was just about on cue for this species, but a **Richard's Pipit** the next day, 23rd, on Chingford Plain, was somewhat later than they usually turn up, and stayed even later, and as I had already dipped on one on Wormwood Scrubs, this fine bird was greatly appreciated. So October had gained me ten good ticks, an excellent month, as it so often is, and a new record London year-list total was looking likely.

NOVEMBER: Yet another month got off to a cracking start on 1st, when a long visit to Rainham Marsh resulted in a close flypast from a **Merlin** around midday, and not long after I had arrived home from there, I had to move quickly to be one of only three birders to see a very active **Little Auk** found late in the day on Wm Girling Res, ten years to the day since one was last on the Chingford reservoirs. On 3rd, a visit again to an excellent site, more often associated with 'doing bird' than watching birds, Wormwood Scrubs, when a surprisingly easy to locate **Dartford Warbler** was abnormally tame and showy. A real surprise came on the 5th, with surely London's best bird of the year, a beautiful juvenile **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Beaulieu Heights Wood. On my arrival, the bird hadn't been seen since the initial sighting four hours previously, so everyone present was well pleased when I soon relocated it, as it then continued to give good close views to allcomers for three days. More surprises on 8th, with a young **Night Heron** at

Sevenoaks Reserve, and more good views. After an exceptionally good and protracted autumn passage lasting a week into November had finally ceased, it was now into the winter season proper, and that meant less possible species to add to the list. There was a lull of about three weeks with little being found, although an interesting diversion from birds was provided by the sight of a six foot long Leatherback Turtle on the foreshore at Rainham Marsh on 28th, which was a species new to the London Area.

DECEMBER: Around the end of November, a few **Bitterns** began arriving, and after another six attempts, to add to a few early in the year, I finally saw one on 6th, at the famous Bittern Watchpoint in the Lee Valley, which is now said to be the best place in the *world* to see this species. The weather from here to the end of the year was unusually mild, and bird movement was thus very minimal, and despite solid searching the Bittern was the last species that I was to add to the list.

Species added month by month

JANUARY

Red-throated Diver	Sparrowhawk	Kingfisher
Black-throated Diver	Kestrel	Green Woodpecker
Great Northern Diver	Peregrine	Gt. Spotted Woodpecker
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-legged Partridge	Skylark
Little Grebe	Pheasant	Meadow Pipit
Great Crested Grebe	Water Rail	Water Pipit
Red-necked Grebe	Moorhen	Grey Wagtail
Black-necked Grebe	Coot	Pied Wagtail
Cormorant	Golden Plover	Wren
Grey Heron	Lapwing	Dunnock
Mute Swan	Jack Snipe	Robin
Greylag Goose	Snipe	Stonechat
Canada Goose	Redshank	Blackbird
Egyptian Goose	Green Sandpiper	Fieldfare
Shelduck	Pomarine Skua	Song Thrush
Wigeon	Mediterranean Gull	Redwing
Gadwall	Black-headed Gull	Mistle Thrush
Teal	Common Gull	Chiffchaff
Mallard	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Goldcrest
Garganey	Herring Gull	Long-tailed Tit
Shoveler	Iceland Gull	Marsh Tit
Pochard	Glaucous Gull	Coal Tit
Tufted Duck	Great Black-backed Gull	Blue Tit
Eider	Kittiwake	Great Tit
Long-tailed Duck	Feral Rock Dove	Treecreeper
Goldeneye	Stock Dove	Jay
Smew	Woodpigeon	Magpie
Red-breasted Merganser	Collared Dove	Jackdaw
Goosander	Little Owl	Rook
Ruddy Duck	Tawny Owl	Carrion Crow
		Starling

House Sparrow
 Chaffinch
 Greenfinch
 Goldfinch
 Siskin
 Linnet
 Redpoll
 Bullfinch
 Yellowhammer
 Reed Bunting

FEBRUARY

Red-crested Pochard
 Oystercatcher
 Ringed Plover
 Grey Plover
 Dunlin
 Black-tailed Godwit
 Curlew
 Turnstone
 Rock Pipit
 Nuthatch
 Brambling
 Crossbill
 Hawfinch

MARCH

Mandarin
 Common Scoter
 Buzzard
 Ruff
 Ring-billed Gull
 Sand Martin
 Wheatear
 Blackcap
 Willow Warbler
 Firecrest
 Bearded Tit
 Corn Bunting

APRIL

Shag
 Grey Partridge
 Little Ringed Plover

Whimbrel
 Common Sandpiper
 Common Tern
 Cuckoo
 Swift
 Woodlark
 Swallow
 House Martin
 Yellow Wagtail
 Nightingale
 Black Redstart
 Whinchat
 Ring Ouzel
 Cetti's Warbler
 Sedge Warbler
 Reed Warbler
 Lesser Whitethroat
 Whitethroat
 Garden Warbler

MAY

Little Egret
 Hobby
 Quail
 Black-winged Stilt
 Stone Curlew
 Sanderling
 Temminck's Stint
 Woodcock
 Greenshank
 Wood Sandpiper
 Little Gull
 Arctic Tern
 Black Tern
 Turtle Dove
 Ring-necked Parakeet
 Barn Owl
 Long-eared Owl
 Lr. Spotted Woodpecker
 Tree Pipit
 Grasshopper Warbler
 Marsh Warbler
 Spotted Flycatcher

JUNE

Nightjar
 Spotted Redshank

JULY

Scaup
 Manx Shearwater

AUGUST

Knot
 Little Stint
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Arctic Skua
 Sabine's Gull
 Pied Flycatcher

SEPTEMBER

Curlew Sandpiper
 Sandwich Tern
 Redstart
 Wood Warbler
 Tree Sparrow

OCTOBER

Slavonian Grebe
 Brent Goose
 Pintail
 Hen Harrier
 Spotted Crake
 Avocet
 Red-necked Phalarope
 Short-eared Owl
 Richard's Pipit
 Snow Bunting

NOVEMBER

Night Heron
 Merlin
 Little Auk
 Dartford Warbler
 Red-breasted Flycatcher

DECEMBER

Bittern

Contentious species

The above monthly summaries contain 201 species. In addition to those, I saw a few more species which could also perhaps be added to that total. Firstly, a **Bean Goose** of the 'taiga' race seen at Sevenoaks Reserve on February 15th was surely a wild bird. Although a lone individual consorting with the similar Greylag Geese, it occurred at a time when numerous other single birds and small groups were being found around southeast England, and during the main return passage period for this subspecies, whose only regular wintering site in southern England is in East Anglia (Oates, 1997). Secondly, on September 5th, I spent part of the afternoon counting tern passage on the River Thames at Northfleet, on the eastern edge of the London area. I watched two juvenile **Little Terns** feeding for 20 minutes a few hundred yards outside the boundary. They fed sometimes with Black Terns, but despite constantly willing them to venture into London, the Little Terns chose not to fly upriver with the Blacks. However, whilst viewing them, I was inside the London Area, even though the Little Terns were not. Thirdly, there is **Yellow-legged Gull**, a subspecies of Herring Gull. I saw many in London this year, the first being at Nazeing GP on January 3rd. Virtually all birders surely include these on their lists now as a separate species, despite it not yet having been split by the British Ornithologists Union, and thus not made, officially, a full species.

All of those three species are widely considered countable, and perhaps this one should be: **Ferruginous Duck**, the attractive male at Cheshunt GP, seen on January 11th. Birders have differing opinions on this bird's origins, and mine is that it should be taken more seriously. It was first seen on November 30th 1993, and stayed until February 4th 1994. It returned on December 26th 1994, and stayed until February 11th 1995. It then missed two winters completely before re-appearing, at the same site, on December 21st 1997, staying until February 1st 1998. On the occasion of its first visit, the London Bird Report stated that it '*became* very approachable during the course of its stay'. It certainly was tame, although that is no certainty of captive origin. It consorted with presumably wild Pochards, Mallards and Tufted Ducks, which were also approachable, and the Ferruginous was said to have taken bread with them. It bore no rings, and with its brief staying, wintering only behaviour, could it perhaps be given the benefit of the doubt?

As well as Yellow-legged Gull being a separate species, some authorities consider that this species should be further split to give full species status to the Central Asian (Black Sea and Caspian Sea area) subspecies *L.a.cachinnans*, known as **Caspian Gull** (Jonsson, 1998). I caught up with a bird of that race on December 29th on the River Thames at North Woolwich.

Also during the year I saw **Barnacle Goose** at numerous sites, but first in Enfield on February 2nd, and **Ruddy Shelduck** at Cornmill Meads on May 10th. Both of these species are always categorised as escapes in London.

Missed species

Readers of this paper may wonder how I managed to miss certain species. Try as I might, many still eluded me. The most surprising one missing from my final

tally was **Bar-tailed Godwit**. I only had one chance at this, on the Thames in mid-May, but the fog beat me. My worst dip was a **Lapland Bunting** which eluded me in a huge stubble field at Horton. I was on site during the bird's stay, but frustratingly could not connect with it. Despite my many visits to Rainham Marsh and the many **Marsh Harrier** sightings there, the two events never coincided. Other birds that I tried to get onto during the year included the **Spoonbill** and **Cattle Egret**, both in the Lee Valley, the Spoonbill being very brief, and the Cattle Egret unfortunately suffering a three hour delay in news getting out, thus only being seen by on-site birders. **Great Grey Shrike**, **Osprey** and **Willow Tit** also escaped my chases, and I missed the chance of one of the **Red-backed Shrikes** whilst I was abroad in May. Virtually all other species missed were short stayers, although there were a few 'unpublicised' birds.

Future listing

This was then, the first time that any one person had accumulated a total of over 200 species in the London Area in one calendar year, but I'm sure it won't be the last. As well as more and more birders using mobile communications, the increasing trend toward splitting species, such as has provided Water Pipit and Yellow-legged Gull in recent times, must make good totals ever more achievable. Anyone attempting a London year-list will need a mobile phone, a bird pager complete with the local channel, plenty of birding contacts, a good knowledge of London's birding sites, a lot of spare time, and most of all, the inclination to get out and do a lot of one's own birding. I was lucky enough to be able to get out birding every day during September, and most days in the last three months of the year. I saw 80 per cent of the species on my final tally during the course of my own year's birding activities (the rest were only seen on 'twitches'), and had 600 records to send in by the end of the year.

If anyone else is keen (or obsessed?) enough to go through that, I would be only too pleased to lend help to their year-list attempt. Personally, I'll be happy to get back to some more pedestrian-paced, less manic, normal local birding!

Acknowledgements

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Crossbills in the London Area with particular reference to the 1997 invasion

P.J. Oliver

Introduction and Methods

The summer of 1997 saw what was perhaps the largest recorded invasion of Crossbills *Loxia curvirostra* into England. This was fully reflected in the London Area and a summary appeared in the systematic list of the *London Bird Report* for that year. This paper seeks to put these events into the context of earlier invasions and looks in more detail at some aspects of the 1997 invasion.

All Crossbill records appearing in the *London Bird Report* from 1955 have been examined together with the detailed record sheets of the ornithological section for 1997. No attempt was made to go back to similar underlying records for earlier years. The detail in which records have been published in the *London Bird Report* has not always been consistent and conclusions about total numbers involved in some invasions have varied between the contemporary report and comments made in subsequent years. In such cases I have used the contemporary estimate. Where no such estimate has been published I have made my own by reference to the published data, but in years when this was incomplete such estimates will necessarily understate the true position. This is the case particularly for 1962, 1963 and 1966. In view of these uncertainties the totals used in this account have been rounded up to the nearest ten. For 1997 an estimate of the minimum number present was published in the *London Bird Report*. For the purposes of this paper I re-evaluated the record sheets and concluded that the minimum number was almost certainly higher than previously reported (see later). In conformity with my treatment of earlier years I have used the contemporary (lower) figure when comparing 1997 with earlier years, but my own (higher) figure when analysing the 1997 records in detail.

Twentieth Century Invasions in the London Area

Prior to 1954

In this period, reviewed by Homes (1957), Crossbills were recorded in only 29 of the 55 years and there were only two large invasions, in 1909 and 1935. Lesser invasions occurred in 1927, 1930 and 1953. It was notably scarce in the 1940s. In even the largest invasions seldom more than ten to 20 birds were seen together though sometimes flocks of up to 50 were noted and in 1909 a flock of 150 was reported at Woodmansterne (Surrey). There was only one Inner London record – a single flying over Kensington Gardens in 1909. In 1910, after the largest invasion, breeding occurred at six localities (with six pairs at one of those), but there were only four further confirmed and one probable breeding records down to 1954.

1955 to 1996

In this period Crossbills were reported in the London Area in every year except 1955 and 1976 and there were invasions in nine years. These were very erratic in their occurrence with seven in the 15 years between 1958 and 1972, but none in the 17 years 1973 to 1989. Details of the invasions are summarised in Tables 1 to 3. They are also depicted in Figure 1 which clearly illustrates the unprecedented scale of the 1997 invasion. Curiously, and inexplicably, all the invasions other than those in 1972 and 1997 came in pairs of adjacent years. A brief summary of each invasion follows.

Table 1. Invasions of Crossbills in the London Area between 1955 and 1997.

	Date of first record	Minimum number to 31 Dec	Jan - May following Number	% of invasion minimum no.	Breeding in following year
1958	7 July	100	30	30%	no
1959	18 July	90	19	21%	3 pairs (see text)
1962	30 June	200	160	80%	possibly 1 pair
1963	July	150	213	142%	no
1966	26 June	430	124	29%	1 pair
1967	25 June	60	30	50%	1-5 pairs
1972	2 July	110	8	7%	no
1990	26 June	100	221	221%	possibly 4 pairs
1991	July	100	25	25%	no
1997	21 June	1,110	182	16%	1-2 pairs

1958

The first record on July 7th concerned a party of 12 flying south-east at a considerable height. Small parties continued to appear for the rest of the month and into August and early September, but few lingered. There were no records in the second half of September or in October, but there were two observations accounting for 11 birds at the end of November. About two-thirds of the birds were reported from Surrey with most of the rest in Essex and a handful in each of Middlesex and Kent. The largest flock reported was 15.

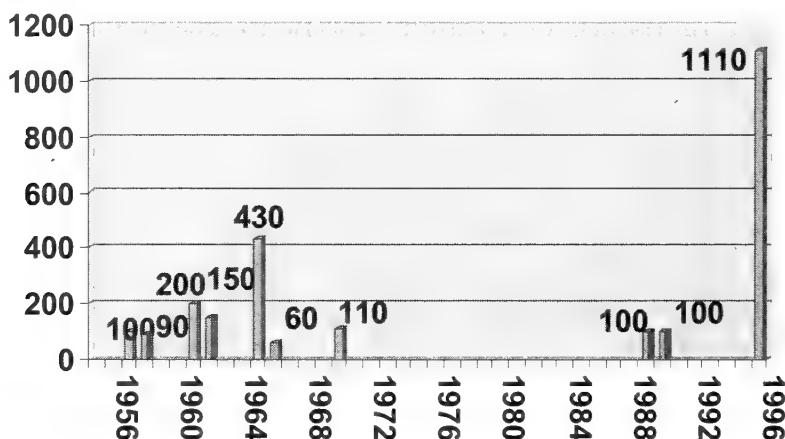


Figure 1. Minimum number of Crossbills in the London Area in invasions between 1955 and 1997

1959

There was a marked arrival on July 18th which accounted for two-thirds of the total number recorded. All these had gone by August 12th and few were seen thereafter and, apart from two in November, none at all after September 9th. Apart from two in Middlesex, records were confined to Essex and Surrey. Notwithstanding the absence of birds at the end of the year, nesting occurred in the following spring in Surrey, just beyond the London Area, and two family parties thought to have been from these nesting attempts were subsequently seen in the Area. In addition a juvenile was seen in Buckinghamshire in April. The largest flock was of c50 birds on the first day of the invasion.

Table 2. Distribution of Crossbills records by month. o = <10% of invasion total, oo = 10-25%, ooo = 26-50%, oooo = >50%.

Year	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1958		ooo	ooo	oo			oo
1959		oooo	oo	oo			o
1962	o	oo	ooo	oo	oo	o	o
1963		o	oo	ooo	o	ooo	o
1966	o	oooo	oo	oo	o	o	o
1967	oo	oooo	oo		oo		o
1972		ooo	ooo	o	o	oo	oo
1990	o	o	oo	o	o	ooo	oo
1991	o	oooo	ooo		o	o	
1997	ooo	ooo	o	o	o	o	o

1962

This was the largest invasion since that of 1935. Over most of the Area appearances were sporadic with few parties lingering for more than a day or two, but in Surrey numbers built up in late July and early August with as many as 100 at Kingswood. Most birds had left by late September and apart from one flock of 20 in early October there were only sporadic records of small numbers thereafter, the last being on December 21st. By far the majority occurred in Surrey, but a total of 29 was seen flying over Regent's Park in Inner London. Breeding may have occurred at two localities in Hertfordshire in the following year.

1963

While on a smaller scale than in 1962, this was still a substantial invasion and was more widespread. Unusually, more were recorded from Hertfordshire than from Surrey. These two sectors accounted for about 70 per cent of the total but records came from all other sectors apart from Buckinghamshire and three were seen flying over Inner London. More than usual stayed late in the year and the maximum for Surrey occurred as late as November 13th-16th when 20 were at Banstead. Large numbers occurred in the first quarter of 1964, with a maximum of 50 at Oxshott, Surrey. In that year more birds were seen between January and May than during the invasion itself (Table 1) suggesting either that more

were involved in the original invasion than were reported at the time, or that birds continued to move into the London Area during the course of the winter and following spring. There was no suggestion of breeding.

Table 3. Distribution of Crossbills records by recording area. Conventions as for Table 2.

Year	Essex	Herts	Middx	Inner	Bucks London	Kent	Surrey
1958	oo		o			o	oooo
1959	oooo		o				ooo
1962	oo	o	o	oo	o	o	oooo
1963	o	ooo	oo	o		o	oo
1966	oo	o	o	o		o	oooo
1967	oo			oo		oo	ooo
1972	o	oo		o	o	o	oooo
1990	oo	ooo	oo		ooo	o	oo
1991	ooo	oo	o	o	o	o	oo
1997	oo	oo	o	o	oo	o	ooo

1966

This was by far the largest invasion to have occurred this century prior to that of 1997. The total of 430 in Table 2 is the minimum derived from the detailed published records, but the London Bird Report for 1990, referring back to 1966, states that the minimum was 350+. Although the first arrival was seen on June 26th, no more were seen until July 3rd, but by the middle of that month half of the 48 localities from which it was eventually recorded had been visited. Numbers were thought to have declined somewhat after that, but there were then apparently new arrivals in mid-August. Numbers were mostly lower again in September and October, though there were still 41 at St. George's Hill, Surrey as late as October 30th. Surrey was by far the most important sector accounting for nearly three-quarters of the records and the largest reported flock of 60+ birds, but all sectors apart from Buckinghamshire were again represented including three records aggregating nine birds in Inner London. Flocks of up to 30 were still present in the first four months of the following year and a pair bred successfully in Kew Gardens.

1967

Small numbers were still present until well into the summer and the extent of new arrivals thereafter is not entirely clear. The total of 60 included in Table 2 is based on records from June 25th. About a third of these were from Surrey with the rest coming from Essex, Kent and Inner London. Most occurred in July and August and although none was seen in September there were single records in October (seven birds) and December (three birds). A pair bred in Kent in the following year and another probably did so in Surrey.

1972

This was a typical invasion with most birds arriving in July and August, but there was no substantial build-up of numbers and no flock exceeded ten birds. At least one small flock was still present at the beginning of November with few records thereafter. Surrey accounted for about half of the records with all sectors other than Middlesex represented.

1990

Generally small numbers appeared from the end of June and in the following two months, but flocks of ten to 16 (the largest of the year) remained in Hertfordshire into November and December and in Buckinghamshire in December. Those two sectors accounted for most of the records and unlike most invasions only a small proportion occurred in Surrey. Many were reported in the first half of 1991 and breeding was strongly suspected at four sites – two in Essex and one each in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

1991

The date of the first new arrivals was obscured by the presence of birds from the previous year, but the London Bird Report refers to arrivals commencing in July. In contrast to the previous year this was a very short-lived invasion; the new arrivals did not stay and only five were seen after the end of August. About one third of the birds occurred in Essex and there were comparatively few in Surrey.

The 1997 invasion

This began early with the first record on June 21st. It also built up very quickly, the highest number in any ten or eleven day period occurring in the last ten days of June. This included a remarkable concentration estimated at 225 at Black Park (Bucks) on 29th, but six days later there were only three there (C. Lamsdell pers. comm.). This typified the invasion for most birds passed quickly through and many records were of parties flying over. By July 10th they had been recorded from 35 of the 82 sites from which they were eventually seen. The minimum number of birds by sector in each ten or eleven day period is shown in Table 4 from which it will be seen that numbers quickly tailed off with hardly any present by the end of August. A further influx occurred in the autumn. This was first apparent in Surrey in September, but not until October and November north of the Thames. While this later influx was small compared to the numbers in June and July it was substantial by historical standards – there were at least 89 birds in the first ten days of November alone.

The *London Bird Report* assumed that, for a given locality, the maximum daily count during the invasion represented the minimum number occurring at that locality (A. Moon pers. com.). While there can be no disputing the assumption that the resulting total was the absolute minimum, the fact that most birds were passing through suggests that it under-states the true number. I therefore recalculated a minimum figure on the basis that a new observation at a site after a gap of at least ten days represented a new arrival. I also treated all records of birds reported flying over as additions to the minimum. These assumptions

Table 4. Minimum number of Crossbills by sector each 10 or 11 day period, 1997

Period ending	Essex	Herts	Middx	Inner London	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	Total
June 30	192	10	13		253		37	505
July 10	15	47	34	31	1	45	132	305
July 20	12	21	32		32	5	100	202
July 31	3	15	28		39	8	62	153
Aug 10	10		1			2	49	62
Aug 20	3		6	27		3	14	53
Aug 31		1	2				1	4
Sept 10		2					51	53
Sept 20					1		7	8
Sept 30	1		2		8		2	13
Oct 10	15	2	10				1	28
Oct 20		29	8				3	40
Oct 31	3	5	8				15	31
Nov 10	5	41	3		37		3	89
Nov 20	10		3				10	23
Nov 30		12					5	17
Dec 10							4	4
Dec 20		6						6
Dec 31	4							4
Total	269	195	150	58	371	63	496	1602

resulted in a minimum of 1,602 individuals (Table 4). The total bird-days reported were 2,135. Both assessments for 1997 could involve duplication if the same birds were reported from more than one site, but this would also apply to assessments of the numbers occurring in all earlier invasions and there is no way of eliminating this possibility when assessing the numbers involved. Whatever the true numbers were, it was undeniably a remarkable influx and without precedent. Over 30 per cent occurred in Surrey and more than 20 per cent in Buckinghamshire, the latter almost entirely accounted for by the arrival on June 29th. At least 58 were recorded from Inner London. A few small parties lingered through November and December and into 1998, but in January there were flocks of 30 at Black Park and Bedmond with a similar flock at Chelsham in March. Although the total of at least 182 remaining to 31 May 1998 was a relatively small percentage of the invasion total (Table 1), it was never the less a very substantial number, yet there was only one record of confirmed breeding (a pair at Havering), with another pair possibly having done so at Walton Heath.

In spite of the massive numbers involved, the record for the largest flock in the London Area of 150 in 1909 was not broken, for the big concentration of 225 in Black Park was made up of several flocks of 60-80 (C. Lamsdell *pers. com.*). Other flocks of 50 or more were 100 at Thorndon Park (Essex) on June 30th, 75 at Titsey (Surrey) on July 9th and 50 at Walton-on-the-Hill (Surrey) on July 13th. An analysis of flock sizes appears in Table 5. It will be seen that while the

predominant flock size was five or less and the mean flock size only 9.2, more than half the birds were in flocks of 21 or more – flock sizes that, by historical standards, are high for the London Area.

As has been the case in most invasions, Surrey accounted for the highest percentage of records, but in 1997 a greater proportion than usual appeared north of the Thames.

Figure 2 shows the timing of bird-days north and south of the Thames and reveals the differences between these areas. The build-up was a little earlier and much larger north of the river, especially in Essex and Buckinghamshire, whereas the secondary arrival in the autumn occurred in the first half of September in Surrey but did not reach its peak north of the Thames until early November. The very small numbers in Kent throughout the invasion (Table 4) are striking, though consistent with earlier invasions (Table 3).

Table 5. Crossbill records June to December 1997 analysed by flock size.

Flock Size	No. of flocks	Total birds	Average flock size	% of flocks	% of birds
1-5	102	227	2.2	59	14
6-10	35	260	7.4	20	16
11-20	16	216	13.5	9	14
21-50	16	499	31.2	9	31
51-100	5	400	80.0	3	25
Total	174	1602	9.2	100	100

The 1997 invasion elsewhere

The summary that follows deals with the invasion in adjacent counties and in East Anglia. It is drawn from Nightingale and Allsopp (1998) and the relevant county bird reports. Surprisingly, within East Anglia and the Home Counties, the first record came not from a coastal county, but from Surrey, where five were reported flying SW on May 26th. In Norfolk the first birds were not reported until May 31st and in Kent on June 1st. The first sizeable flocks did not occur until mid-June – 42 in Norfolk on 14th and 22 in Surrey on 16th. The major influx commenced on 24th when at least 230 were reported in Norfolk, many flying west. On 28th there was a big influx into Suffolk where 330 flew south at Felixstowe and there was a total of at least another 260 at five further sites. Between then and the end of the month large numbers were seen throughout Essex, the largest flock being 250. The peak in Hertfordshire did not occur until somewhat later, the largest flock, 250-300 at Gaffridge Wood, being reported as late as 13th. Likewise in Kent the main influx was slightly later, in the first half of July, when almost 500 were estimated to have arrived. The majority were active migrants at the coast, but there were as many as 200 Langley, an inland site, and smaller numbers remained in that district until September. In spite of the

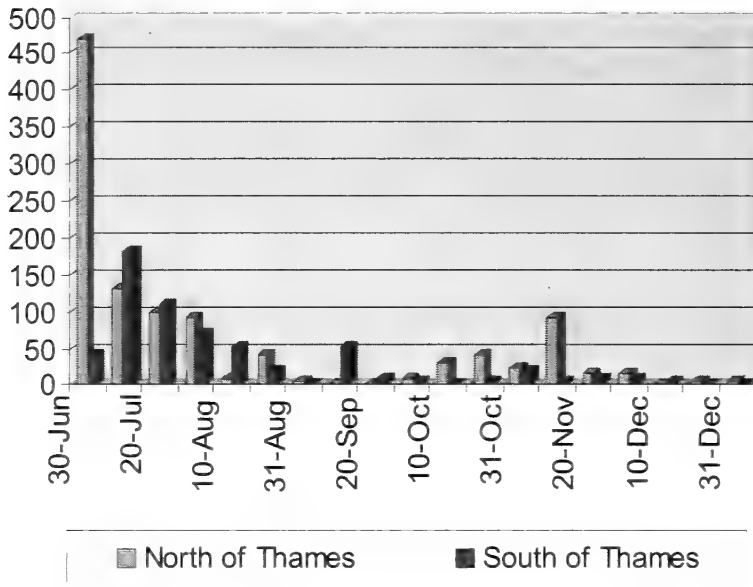


Figure 2. Minimum number of Crossbills north and south of the Thames, each ten or eleven day period, 1997

large number of coastal records in Kent, there were hardly any on the opposite French coast – just 23 in the whole autumn on the Flandres-Boulonnais littoral (G. Flohart *in lit.*) While massive numbers arrived in Surrey at the end of June, with 200, perhaps even 400, at one site on 28th the largest numbers were not reached until the first few days of July when they were widespread throughout the county, though the largest flock in this period was ‘only’ 123.

Although all counties reported many birds heading west or south-west and in Essex, in particular, very few remained beyond early July, some did stay, especially in Norfolk, Surrey and central Kent. Even so, numbers everywhere tailed off rapidly in August and September before another smaller influx began in the autumn. In Norfolk this was apparent from September 20th and there were as many as 400 at one site in Surrey by 27th. Comparatively few were seen in Essex and once again the influx was noted rather later in Kent where the peak did not occur until the second half of October. Curiously, the largest numbers in autumn in Suffolk were not reported until November. Good numbers continued to be recorded in Norfolk, Kent and Surrey throughout October and into November, but away from Suffolk and Surrey few remained in December.

The monthly distribution of records, for those counties that published it (or, in the case of Suffolk, where it was possible to compile the data from the records given), is shown in Table 5. This shows clearly the rapid departure from Essex, the much later arrivals in Kent in both the summer and autumn invasions, the late autumn influx into Suffolk and the very substantial numbers in Surrey. It should be remembered that the London figures are reflected in the records from the surrounding counties.

Table 6. Monthly distribution of Crossbills in selected counties, 1997. Data from relevant bird report or, for London, from Table 4.

May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
Suffolk	-	445	359	40	34	98	147	89	larger flocks only
Essex	-	626	148	27	2	54	26	3	total birds
Kent	-	171	671	77	5	457	148	11	new arrivals
Surrey	5	332	800	259	589	299	279	153	total birds
London	-	505	662	119	74	99	129	14	total birds

Breeding in the London area

While most breeding records in the London Area have followed invasion years, the relationship between breeding and invasions is not clear. Table 1 shows that, apart from the three pairs nesting in Surrey just beyond the London Area in 1960, breeding certainly took place after only three invasions and possibly did so after another two. In the four years (including 1960) when breeding definitely occurred, the number of Crossbills remaining in the year following the invasion was 50% or less of the number estimated to have occurred during the invasion, yet in years when a much higher percentage remained, breeding either did not occur or was only suspected. Furthermore, after only four records involving 15 birds in autumn 1993, at least six pairs nested the following year, four in Essex and two in Buckinghamshire.

Discussion

The irruptive nature of Crossbills has long been recognised, though the precise mechanisms that lead to invasions have not been fully resolved (see Newton, 1972, for a full account and on which the general comments that follow are based). Likewise the origins of individual invasions have not always been clear, though most authors agree that they usually originate from the northern forests between Norway and as far east as the Urals, or sometimes more specifically from Fenno-Scandia. The fact that the 1997 invasion was first noticed in East Anglia and south-east England rather than in Scotland and the Northern Isles (Nightingale and Allsopp, 1998) suggests that its origin might have been eastern rather than Scandinavian, though I am unaware of any ringing recoveries that would confirm this.

The pattern of arrival in Britain of the two previous largest invasions differed from that seen in 1997. In 1966 the first were seen on the east coast between Shetland and Yorkshire, with the first sizeable flocks shortly thereafter in the Midlands and eastern England (Ferguson-Lees, 1966). By contrast, the first arrivals in 1962 were in southern England with large flocks in Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire (Williamson, 1963). In both of those years there was consistency between the London Area and the national picture. In 1966 the first birds and the

first sizeable flock were both in the Essex sector, while in 1962 nearly all the records were from the Surrey sector.

The large and rapid arrival in the London Area in 1997 at the end of June and in early July was similar to that witnessed in East Anglia with the arrival of large flocks at Black Park on the day following the huge movement in Suffolk. Curiously, though, this early movement seems largely to have by-passed Hertfordshire. Clearly many birds moved on very quickly at this stage, even though some lingered in Norfolk. The peak arrival in Kent was a little later. Indeed, by the end of June only about 170 were estimated to have arrived in Kent (of which none was in the London sector) compared to over 600 in the London Area, virtually all of which were north of the Thames. This, combined with the very small numbers occurring in the Kent sector later, suggests that London's birds were arriving on a south-westerly course from East Anglia rather than on a westerly course from Kent. Many of these birds evidently moved rapidly on to Surrey and, no doubt, beyond. The insignificant numbers on the northern coast of France likewise suggest that the Kentish birds had also arrived from East Anglia or had crossed the southern North Sea on a south-westerly heading from further north. A clear and consistent south-westerly orientation for invading Crossbills has been demonstrated by Newton (1972). There is, however, an unexplained anomaly in relation to the smaller secondary invasion in the autumn. As in the earlier arrival, this was noted first in both Norfolk and Surrey (including the London sector of Surrey), with a later arrival in Kent and a later one still in Suffolk. Yet in the London sectors north of the Thames the secondary influx was not apparent until later in October. A build-up in Surrey without a corresponding influx in the sectors north of the Thames suggests a different, and possibly less direct, route than that followed by the mid-summer arrivals.

The rapid movement through the London Area is confirmed by the relatively low number of bird-days (2,135) compared to the minimum number thought to have been present. Whether this is taken as 1,110 or 1,602, it implies an average stay of an individual Crossbill in the Area of less than two days.

Turning to earlier invasions in the London Area it is clear from Table 2 that July normally accounts for by far the greatest proportion of records. Out of the ten invasions since 1955, July has accounted for the majority of individuals in four years and has had a similar proportion to that occurring in June (once) and August (twice). There have been exceptions though; the largest proportion has occurred once in November (1990) and once equally in September and November (1963). While such autumn invasions on their own are clearly the exception, a secondary autumn influx after a main arrival in the summer may also occur. Apart from in 1997, this probably occurred in 1966 and perhaps also in 1962 and 1972.

Table 3 shows that the most favoured sector has consistently been Surrey – no doubt a reflection of its comparatively extensive heathland with pines. It accounted for the largest proportion of birds in six invasions. Essex had the highest proportion in two other years. Hertfordshire accounted for the highest proportion in the late invasion of 1963 and it and Buckinghamshire together accounted for most birds

in 1990. Apart from the preponderance of Surrey, therefore, there is no obvious pattern and with many individuals frequently passing quickly through the Area it is presumably often just a matter of chance where most occur.

Breeding in the London Area has always been erratic and limited to very small numbers. Evidently the extent of suitable habitat is insufficient to sustain a breeding population for more than one season. The nesting of six pairs in 1994 in the absence of recent invasions remains an unexplained anomaly.

Finally, one may note the contrast in non-invasion years before and after 1954. In the earlier period Crossbills occurred in less than half the years compared with an appearance somewhere in the Area in all but two years in the later period. Improved coverage by the much greater number of observers in recent decades is likely to have accounted for most, if not all, of this apparent increase.

The London Area is evidently of no great long-term significance to the Crossbill. While future national invasions will doubtless be reflected in our Area, as they have in the past, it is plainly no more than a transit area for the majority of individuals. Without the extensive areas of suitable habitat that led to the establishment of viable breeding populations after the 1909 invasion in both East Anglia (Newton, 1972) and Hampshire (Clarke & Eyre, 1993) we cannot expect this species to be other than an occasional migrant, albeit sometimes in impressive numbers. The occurrence of a big invasion is, though, an exciting event, for bird watchers as for the Crossbills themselves, and the events of 1997 in particular were a fascinating experience for those fortunate enough to have witnessed them.

Acknowledgements

Drafts of annual county reports and other information were kindly made available by Jack Fearnside (Hertfordshire), Ken Lodge (Kent) and Shaun Peters (Surrey). Drafts of this paper were commented on by Patricia Brown and Andrew Moon, the latter also assisting in discussion and a number of other ways. Other help or information was provided by Guy Flohart, David Griffin, Chris Lamsdell and Philip Redman. To all of these and to the many observers who submitted records to the LNHS I am most grateful.

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Checklist of Birds of the London Area

A full checklist of the birds of the London Area has appeared in recent LBRs and we intend to keep this going on an annual basis.

The checklist which follows updates the situation to December 2000, by when the total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times is 351, of which 338 have been recorded this century. There were no additions to the list during 1998, however, the list has increased by three due to taxonomic changes with Green-winged Teal, Mealy Redpoll and Iberian Chiffchaff all becoming full species. The latter species, recorded at Brent Reservoir on 3rd June 1972, has been accepted as the first ever record for Britain. It should be noted that although the LBR lists Yellow-legged Gull and Caspian Gull separately, neither of these two forms of Herring Gull have been 'split' by the BOU and so are not counted in this checklist.

The 13 species marked with a * in the checklist were recorded in the London Area at least once prior to 1900 but have not been recorded in an apparently wild state since. Several other species on the British list, particularly wildfowl, have been recorded in the London Area, but only as known or presumed escapes from captivity. Additions and corrections to Osborne (1980) are generally based on the annual London Bird Reports (see especially Hardwick & Self 1992 and the editorial introductions to LBRs: 56 and 57) and reports in *Birding World*, *British Birds* and *Ibis*.

The London Area is the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral. The species numbers in the first column below follow the list in the Surrey Bird Report for 1979 which were used in the LBR until 1991, except that some species (such as Water Pipit) formerly treated as subspecies are distinguished by suffix letters. The second number for each species is its EURING species number, as now used in the LBR.

1	0002	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	0003	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	0004	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	0006	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	0007	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	0009	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	0010	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	0011	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	0012	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	0020	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18a	0046	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18b	0046	Mediterranean Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	0048	Little Shearwater	<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	0052	Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	0055	Leach's Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	0071	Gannet	<i>Morus bassana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	0072	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	0080	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	0095	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	0098	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

33	0104	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35	0108	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36	0111	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37	0119	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38	0121	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39	0122	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40	0124	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41	0131	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
42	0134	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
43	0136	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
44	0144	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
46	0152	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
47	0153	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
48	0154	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
49	0157	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
50	0158	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
51	0159	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
53	0161	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
55	0166	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
56	0167	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
57	0168	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
58	0169	Red-breasted Goose*	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
59	0170	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
61	0173	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
63	0178	Mandarin	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
64	0179	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
65	0180	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
67	0182	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
69	0184	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
—	0184.1	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
70	0186	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
72	0189	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
73	0191	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
74	0192	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
75	0194	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
76	0196	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
77	0198	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
78	0200	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
79	0202	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
80	0203	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
81	0204	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
—	0205	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
82	0206	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
86	0212	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
87	0213	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
89	0215	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
91	0218	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
93	0220	Smew	<i>Mergus albellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
94	0221	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
95	0223	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

96	0225	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
97	0231	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98	0238	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
99	0239	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
100	0243	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	0260	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	0261	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	0263	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	0267	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	0269	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	0287	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	0290	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	0296	Golden Eagle*	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	0301	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	0303	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	0304	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	0307	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	0309	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	0310	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
122	0318	Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	0320	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
129	0358	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
130	0367	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
131	0370	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
133	0394	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
136	0407	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
137	0408	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
139	0410	Little Crake*	<i>Porzana parva</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
140	0410	Baillon's Crake*	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
141	0421	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
142	0424	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
145	0429	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
146	0433	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
150	0446	Great Bustard*	<i>Otis tarda</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
151	0450	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
152	0455	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
153	0456	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
154	0459	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
155	0464	Cream-coloured Courser*	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
156	0465	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
158	0469	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
159	0470	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
160	0474	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
161	0477	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
163	0482	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
164a	0483	American Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
164b	0484	Pacific Golden Plover*	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
165	0485	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
166	0486	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
167	0491	Sociable Plover	<i>Chettusia gregaria</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

169	0493	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
170	0496	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
171	0497	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
173	0499	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
175	0501	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
176	0502	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
178	0505	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
179	0506	Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
180	0507	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
181	0508	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
182	0509	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
183	0510	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
184	0512	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
185	0514	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
187	0516	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
188	0517	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
189	0518	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
190	0519	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
191	0520	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
193	0527	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
194	0529	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
195	0532	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
196	0534	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
198	0538	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
199	0541	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	0545	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	0546	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	0547	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	0548	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	0551	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	0552	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	0553	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	0554	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	0556	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	0557	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	0561	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
214	0563	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
215	0564	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
216	0565	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
217	0566	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
218	0567	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
219	0568	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
220	0569	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
222	0575	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
225	0578	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
226	0579	Sabine's Gull	<i>Larus sabini</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
227	0581	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
228	0582	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
232	0589	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
233	0590	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

234	0591	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
235	0592	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
236	0598	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
237	0599	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
238	0600	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
240	0602	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
242	0605	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
243	0606	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
245	0611	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
246	0614	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
247	0615	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
248	0616	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
249	0622	Bridled Tern	<i>Sterna anaethetus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
250	0623	Sooty Tern	<i>Sterna fuscata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
251	0624	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
252	0626	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
253	0627	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
254	0628	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
255	0634	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
257	0636	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
260	0647	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
261	0654	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
262	0663	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
263	0665	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
264	0668	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
265	0670	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
266	0684	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
267	0687	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
269	0712	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
271	0724	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
273	0728	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
274	0735	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
275	0739	Scops Owl*	<i>Otus scops</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
277	0749	Snowy Owl	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
279	0757	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
280	0761	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
281	0767	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
282	0768	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
283	0770	Tengmalm's Owl*	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
284	0778	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
287	0786	Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
289	0795	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
291	0798	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
293	0831	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
295	0840	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
296	0841	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
297	0846	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
298	0848	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
300	0856	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	0876	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

303	0887	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
307	0968	Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
309	0972	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
310	0974	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
311	0976	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
312	0978	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
313	0981	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
314	0992	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
315	0995	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
316	1001	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
317	1002	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
318	1005	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
319	1008	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
320	1009	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
322	1011	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
323	1012	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
324a	1014	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
324b	1015	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
325	1017	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
326	1018	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
327	1019	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
328	1020	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
329	1048	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
330	1050	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
331	1066	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
333	1084	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
334	1094	Alpine Accentor*	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
336	1099	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
338	1104	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
340	1106	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
342	1121	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
343	1122	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
344	1137	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
345	1139	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
346	1146	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
348	1148	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
349	1149	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
355	1176	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
359	1186	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
360	1187	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
362	1197	Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
364	1198	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
365	1200	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
366	1201	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
367	1202	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
369	1220	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
373	1236	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
375	1238	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
377	1242	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
378	1243	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

381	1250	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
382	1251	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
387	1259	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
388	1260	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
389	1262	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
391	1265	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
392	1267	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
396	1273	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
397	1274	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
398	1275	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
399	1276	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
400	1277	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	1298	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	1300	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
408	1308	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
409	1311	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
—	1311.1	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus brehmii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
410	1312	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
411	1314	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
412	1315	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
413	1335	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
414	1343	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
416	1349	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
417	1364	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
418	1437	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
419	1440	Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
420	1442	Willow Tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
421	1454	Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
422	1461	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
423	1462	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
424	1464	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
425	1479	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
427	1486	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
428	1487	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
429	1490	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
430	1508	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
431	1514	Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
432	1515	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
433	1519	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
434	1520	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
435	1523	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
436	1539	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
437	1549	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
438	1557	Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
440	1560	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
441	1563	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
442	1567	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
443	1572	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
444	1582	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

445	1584	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
446	1591	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
448	1598	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
451	1636	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
452	1638	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
453	1640	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
455	1649	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
456	1653	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
457	1654	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
458	1660	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
459	1662	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
460	1663	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
—	1663.1	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
461	1664	Arctic Redpoll	<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
462	1665	Two-barred Crossbill*	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
463	1666	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
465	1668	Parrot Crossbill*	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
467	1679	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
468	1699	Pine Grosbeak*	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
469	1710	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
470	1717	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
493	1847	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
494	1850	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
495	1856	Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
496	1857	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
497	1858	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
499	1866	Ortolan	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	1873	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	1874	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
506	1877	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
509	1881	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
510	1882	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Acknowledgements

This list was originally compiled by Mark Hardwick who would like to thank Mike Earp for researching the historic references for the Little Crake record and all of the active London birdwatchers whose efforts ensure that new species continue to be added to the 'London List'.

References

- OSBORNE, K.C., 1980. Checklist of the Birds of the London Area, 1901-77. Lond. Bird Rep. 43: 71-84.
- EARP, M.J., 1990. Checklist of the Birds of the London Area, 1900 to 1989. Lond. Bird Rep. 54: 141-144.
- HARDWICK, M.A., and SELF, A.S.M., 1992. Rare Birds in the London Area, 1900 to 1991. Lond. Bird Rep. 56: 183-211.

Guide for Contributors of Ornithological Records

All records of ornithological interest, from LNHS members and non-members alike, are welcomed by the Society's Ornithological Records Committee. However, with an ever-growing number of active birdwatchers in the London Area (thankfully) it seems sensible to issue a guide to our requirements.

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive and contributors are asked to use their own guidance and common sense but it does serve as a reference point for the type of records required. For example, with many common breeding species comparative yearly breeding counts are especially welcomed. The Records Committee reserves the right to request full details for any record, e.g. out of season migrants.

This guide does not apply to Inner London where all records are required, but similar criteria regarding descriptions should be followed.

KEY:

- A = all records.
- D = full description required (form available from recorders).
- N = brief notes required (how identified, view, distance etc., form available from recorders)
- MM = dated monthly maxima for frequently visited sites and all records from elsewhere subject to >n.
- >n = minimum count required, subject to other categories.
- B = all breeding records subject to >n.
- T = all territory counts as well as definite breeding records.
- S = all records between mid-May and mid-July.
- F&L = first and last dates.
- P = passage flocks and movements.
- W = all wintering records.

Red-throated Diver (A, N)

Other divers (A, D)

Little/Great Crested Grebe
(MM, >5, B)

Other grebes (A)

All petrels (A, D)

All shearwaters and Fulmar (A, D)

Gannet (A, N)

Cormorant (MM, S)

Shag (A)

Bittern (A)

Grey Heron (MM, >15, B)

Little Egret (A)

Purple Heron (A, D)

White Stork/Spoonbill (A, D)

Mute Swan (MM, >30, B)

Bewick's/Whooper Swans (A, N)

Bean/Pink-footed Goose (A, D)

White-fronted Goose (A)

Greylag Goose (MM, B)

Barnacle/Brent/Egyptian Goose (A)

Canada Goose (MM, >200, B)

Shelduck (MM, S)

[Ruddy Shelduck (A)]

Mandarin/Wigeon (A)

Gadwall/Teal (MM, S)

Mallard (MM, >200, B)

Pintail/Garganey (A)

Shoveler (MM, S)

Red-crested Pochard (A)

Pochard (MM, >10, S)

Ring-necked Duck (A, D)

Tufted Duck (MM, >20, B)

Scaup (A)

- Eider/Long-tailed Duck (A, N)
 Common Scoter (A)
 Velvet Scoter (A, D)
 Goldeneye/Smew (A)
 Red-breasted Merganser/Goosander (A)
 Ruddy Duck (A)
 Red Kite (A, D)
 Marsh Harrier (A)
 Hen/Montagu's Harrier/Goshawk (A, D)
 Sparrowhawk (A)
 Common Buzzard (A)
 Honey/Rough-legged Buzzard (A, D)
 Osprey (A, N)
 Kestrel (>5, B)
 Merlin (A, N)
 Hobby/Peregrine (A)
 All partridges (>5, S)
 Quail (A, D)
 Pheasant (>20, B)
 Water Rail (A)
 Spotted Crake/Corncrake (A, D)
 Moorhen/Coot (MM, >20, B>5)
 Crane (A, D)
 Oystercatcher/Avocet (A)
 Stone-curlew (A, D)
 Little Ringed Plover/Ringed Plover (A)
 Kentish Plover/Dotterel (A, D)
 Golden/Grey Plover (A)
 Lapwing (P, >10, B)
 Knot/ Sanderling/Little Stint(A)
 Temminck's Stint (A, D)
 Curlew Sandpiper (A)
 Pectoral/Purple Sandpiper (A, D)
 Dunlin (MM, >5, S)
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper (A, D)
 Ruff/Woodcock/Jack Snipe(A)
 Snipe (MM, >3, S)
 All godwits/Whimbrel/Curlew(A)
 Spotted Redshank (A)
 Redshank (MM, >5, S)
 Greenshank (A)
 Green/Wood/Common Sandpiper (A)
 Turnstone (A)
 All phalaropes (A, D)
 All skuas (A, D)
 Mediterranean/Little Gull (A)
 Sabine's Gull (A, D)
 Black-headed Gull (MM, >50)
 Ring-billed Gull (A, D)
 Common Gull (MM, >10)
 LBB/Herring Gull/ (MM, >10, B)
 Yellow-legged Gull (A)
 Caspian/Iceland/Glaucous Gull (A,D)
 Great Black-backed Gull (MM, >10)
 Kittiwake (A)
 Sandwich Tern (A)
 Roseate Tern (A, D)
 Common Tern (MM, >5, B, F&L)
 Arctic/Little/Black Tern (A)
 All auks (A, D)
 Feral Rock Dove (>100)
 Stock Dove (>10, B)
 Woodpigeon (>100, B, P)
 Collared Dove (>20, B)
 Turtle Dove (A)
 Ring-necked Parakeet (A)
 Cuckoo (S, P, F&L)
 All owls (A)
 Nightjar (A, N)
 Swift (>50, B, P, F&L)
 Kingfisher (MM, S)
 Bee-eater/Hoopoe/Wryneck(A, D)
 All woodpeckers (MM, T)
 Short-toed Lark/Shore Lark (A, D)
 Woodlark (A, D away from breeding sites)
 Skylark (>25, B, P)
 Sand Martin (>20, B, F&L, P)
 Swallow/House Martin (>50,B,F&L P)
 Tawny/Richard's Pipits (A, D)
 Tree Pipit (A)
 Meadow Pipit (>25, B, P)
 Rock/Water Pipit (A)
 Yellow Wagtail (A)
 Grey Wagtail (MM, S)
 Pied Wagtail (>5, B)
 Waxwing (A, N)
 Dipper (A, D)
 Wren/Dunnock/Robin (>10, T)
 Nightingale (A)

Bluethroat (A, D)	Golden Oriole (A, D)
Black Redstart/Redstart/Whinchat (A)	All shrikes (A, D)
Stonechat/Wheatear/Ring Ouzel (A)	Jay/Magpie (>15, B>5, P)
Blackbird (>20, P, T)	Jackdaw/Rook (>20, B)
Fieldfare/Redwing (>20, F&L, P)	Carrion Crow (>50, B>5)
Song/Mistle Thrush (>10, P, T)	Raven (A, D)
Cetti's Warbler/Aquatic/Marsh (A, D)	Starling (>500, B>10)
Grasshopper Warbler (A)	House Sparrow (>50, B>10)
Sedge/Reed Warbler (>5, F&L, T)	Tree Sparrow (A)
Hippolais warblers (A, D)	Chaffinch (>50, B>5, P)
Barred Warbler (A, D)	Brambling (A)
Dartford Warbler (A, N)	Serin (A, D)
Lesser/Common Whitethroat (>5, F&L, T)	Greenfinch/Goldfinch (>30, B, P)
Garden Warbler (>5, F&L, T)	Siskin (>5, S)
Blackcap (>10, F&L, T, W)	Linnet (>50, B, P)
Pallas's/Yellow-browed Warbler (A, D)	Twite (A, D)
Wood Warbler (A)	Lesser Redpoll (>5, S)
Chiffchaff (>10, F&L, T, W)	Mealy Redpoll (A, N)
Willow Warbler (>10, F&L, T)	Crossbill (A)
Goldcrest (>5, T)	Common Rosefinch (A, D)
Firecrest (A)	Bullfinch (>10, B)
Spotted Flycatcher (>5, F&L, T)	Hawfinch (A)
Red-breasted Flycatcher (A, D)	Lapland Bunting (A, D)
Pied Flycatcher (A)	Snow Bunting (A, N)
Bearded Tit (A)	Yellowhammer (>10, T)
Long-tailed Tit (>20, T)	Ortolan/Cirl Bunting (A, D)
Marsh/Willow Tit (A)	Reed Bunting (>10, T, P)
Coal/Blue/Great Tit (>20, T)	Little Bunting (A, D)
Nuthatch/Treecreeper (T)	Corn Bunting (>5, T)

In addition to the above, full descriptions are required for all species assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee. Description forms are available from the Editor on request. All records of escapes are also welcomed by the Society. All records of hybrids and birds showing plumage aberrance are also required. In difficult cases, eg *Aythya* hybrids, supporting notes may be required.

Sub-species

All records of sub-species/races are required. In some cases notes are required, eg White Wagtail in autumn and races of Yellow Wagtail other than *M.f. flavissima*. In many other instances notes may not be required but in difficult cases please provide your reasons for assigning the record to a particular sub-species/race. Such cases could be:

Greenland Wheatear
Races of Chiffchaff
Northern Willow Warbler
Hooded Crow
Northern Bullfinch

Rock Pipit: when given suitable viewing conditions please record which race of Rock Pipit you encountered and submit the reasons for your belief. All records of 'Scandinavian' Rock Pipit, *Anthus petrosus littoralis*, in autumn and winter require full descriptions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their records - without your enthusiastic support we could not produce the annual London Bird Report.

Andrew Self, on behalf of the Records Committee, February 2001.

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Notes for Contributors

The Editor welcomes papers, short notes, photographs and drawings relating to the ornithology of the London Area and will be pleased to advise authors on the acceptability of material at draft stage if desired. Papers should be submitted not later than the end of April if they are to be considered for publication in the same year, but details should be given in advance.

Manuscripts Texts should be submitted on an IBM PC/AT compatible computer diskette either in plain ASCII text files or Word/Microsoft Works/Lotus Symphony word processor files. along with a hardcopy

Style English names of birds require initial capitals except after a hyphen, but group names, animals and flowers do not. Scientific names should be in italics, but only the first (generic) name should have an initial capital. Their use in the text is optional if listed in the *Birdwatch Checklist of the Birds of the Western Palearctic*. Dates should take the form Jan 1st 2001; numbers under 11 should be spelt out in text; fractions should be decimalised and, whenever possible, metric equivalents should be given in brackets after English measurements. Full points should be omitted from well-known initials, such as BTO, LNHS and RSPB, and also from 'eg', 'ie' and 'et al'. Quotation marks, if used, should be double. Any references to publications should be given in full, with the name spelt out and in italics.

References should adopt the following style:

HARRISON, J., & GRANT, P.J., 1976. *The Thames Transformed*. London.

MOON, A.V., 1988. The influx of Sabine's Gulls and other Seabirds in October 1987. *Lond. Bird Rep.* 52: 121-132.

Illustrations Figures and graphs in papers are welcomed. Artwork should not be prepared until size of reproduction is known and the Editor has been consulted.

Photographs Prints must allow sufficient background for masking and block-making. If sent by post they must be packed in a board-backed envelope or otherwise protected to prevent damage.

Proofs Authors of papers and short notes will be sent proofs, if requested, but only printers' mistakes may be changed at this stage.

Reprints Up to 5 free reprints of papers (but not short notes or reviews) are provided if ordered by authors in advance. Larger quantities are charged at cost.

All papers for publication should be submitted to the Papers Editor, Patricia Brown, 28 The Plantation, Morden Road, London SE3 0AB.

Illustrations and photographs should be submitted to the Co-ordinating Editor, Andrew Self, 16 Harp Island Close, Neasden, London NW10 0DF

London Bird Report for 1998

edited by A.S.M. Self

NUMBER 63

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Front Cover: Shags at Nazeing GP, December 1998 (Dominic Mitchell)



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